

**EU- Project visualLearning  
2<sup>nd</sup> Partner – Meeting  
ITeE, Radom Poland 5<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> of July 2006**

**Participants:**

Monika Tröster – DIE, Germany  
Fergus Dolan - NALA, Ireland  
Małgorzata Szpilska – ITeE, Poland  
Katarzyna Rudecka – ITeE, Poland

**Apologies:**

Simona Gitu, FiaTest, Romania  
Jola Religa, ITEE, Poland

**Venue:**

Institute for Sustainable Technologies National Research Institute, Radom - Poland,  
6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> July 2006

**Compiled by:**

Katarzyna Rudecka – ITeE, Poland,  
Fergus Dolan - NALA, Ireland

**Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2006 9.30-18.30**

**Introduction**

Monika Tröster (Project Coordinator) opened the meeting and gave a short review on the project and an introduction into the agenda. She told what points should be discussed in our meeting i.e.:

- state of activities
- timetable and detailed work plan according to EC recommendations
- discussion of the national reports;
- interviews with learning experts
- web site
- preparation of next activities
- development of dissemination strategy
- monitoring and evaluation.

***New representatives***

After the introduction there was a short presentation of the partners about their institutions and their activities connected with adult education. It was necessary because since the first meeting there were again changes of the personal composition of people involved in the Project.:

- Fergus Dolan from NALA (Ireland) will replace Gemma Lynch because she will leave NALA at the end of July.
- Simona Gitu from FIATEST(Romania) will represent FiaTest instead of Lucia Hohan. Unfortunately she had to cancel.

### ***Withdrawal of Dutch partner***

We discussed the withdrawal of the Dutch partner; he attended the first meeting where he told about his problems, his expectations and ideas of leaving the project. The project coordinator had to prepare a "Contractual Modification Form". Due to the situation and delays because of changes of staff it was connected with an application for extension. All in all the situation meant a bit trouble for the procedure of the project.

### ***Progress report***

Monika informed that the progress report had been sent to Bruxelles on 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2006. All partners got a copy of the report.

### **Presentation and discussion on the National Reports**

Monika suggested to discuss generally about National Reports to try to compare these Reports and give recommendations how to improve final Reports if necessary. In the discussion we also shared problems and obstacles of the interviews with specialists.

#### *National Report of Poland*

Małgorzata presented National Report from Poland (presentation was distributed). She focused on the target group - adults who learn foreign languages. The main points of this report and the circumstances of its development:

- the most important literature concerning visualization methods in the training of foreign languages comes from German and English spoken countries; Polish literature of the subject is based on studies conducted in the years 1950-80;
- the visualisation techniques are mainly applied at private schools and centres that apply its elements on the courses of effective learning and the development of human's skills; psychologists emphasise that the main role of visualization should be to support, not to replace the traditional methods; many teachers are familiar with this method, however they neither use this method nor know how to skilfully use it in practice;
- a lot of problems to establish a contact with experts.

#### *National Report of Germany*

Monika referred mainly to the Report from Daniela. Due to the fact that she conducted the interview with specialist (media education specialist) just one week ago she has to integrate the findings into the final version of National Report which will be ready about 15<sup>th</sup> August.

The main points of this report:

- topic "visual learning" is dealt marginally by related disciplines;
- visual learning is a part of courses especially in a field of languages and sciences;
- visual literacy contained 5 components (conscious perception, critical reception, reasonable use, active participation);
- interview with expert of media (perception is very important);
- guidelines to improve awareness.

#### *National Report of Ireland*

Fergus also didn't finish the report, because he took over a job description from Gemma Lynch a few days ago. He presented the essential issues about situation on visual learning in Ireland. He focused on adults with literacy difficulties group.

Main points of this Report:

- visual learning useful for literacy and numeracy learners;
- development of 'visual learning materials' (for example: interactive DVD);
- strengthen personal development and confidence of learners (not just reading writing, listening...);

- support a variety of learning styles;
- integration of visual literacy and numeracy courses;
- participation of learners in the "development of visual learning";
- joint venture between tutors and students;
- to help (support learners to understand and develop their own learning styles);
- visual learning methods need to be flexible to accommodate different learning styles.

#### *National Report of Romania*

The partners made some proposals to supplement the report. Monika will inform Simona.

#### *Conclusion*

Everybody agreed that the best method of interview is face to face (with recorder). It's the best opportunity to ask questions and to follow it up if necessary.

Everybody had the same problems and obstacles to create the National Report and interview with expert. Generally the teachers (experts) haven't got time and it's a huge problem with access to the materials about visual learning. It's was also difficult to find a teacher who uses visual methods. Usually the teachers use different learning styles but haven't got any experience with visual literacy. It's no easy to use visual method in the area of every subject; for example: reading poetry is difficult to present by visual method, but history and geography are more visual because of the connection with reality. Maths is like an abstract but it's possible to show by visual methods for example: triangle shape compare with pyramid.

#### *Summary of all Reports:*

- visual learning as a supporting method – not the only way
- for interviews + for course concept learner participation
- focused on daily life situations – ideas from outside the classroom
- cooperate learning styles
- to try to incorporate as broad a range of learning styles as possible
- to make ' a bank of resources' available
- to develop ideas through project work i.e. tutor+ learner involvement
- to strengthen inter-disciplinary approach i.e. to link together art, media, ICT into one or number of methodologies
- to identify visual learning that is taking place but has not been named as such (raising awareness for the importance of visual learning).

### **Presentation and discussion on the web site**

#### **Logo**

Monika presented a logo of the project, everybody liked it and agreed upon it. Monika presented 2 versions of the logo: 'normal' one and also a "water mark".

#### **Web site: Concept and design**

The second issue in this part of discussion was a look of web site.

The participants decided to change the main page presented by Monika. In the first version the entrance was designed into each language version of website by the language of each participants. Fergus suggested that it's no correct, because "English" means that one of the partner is from England. Everybody agreed that the entrance into web site should be marked by name of the country of participants.

Fergus suggested that the functional elements (like contact, sitemap, print etc.) we should replace by visual signs if possible at once and if not, later.

Monika will send all the partners 'terms' on the website. Partners have to translate them into native languages. On the first page for each country there will be an introduction to that country. Monika will send short introduction to Malgorzata and Simona for translation.

Monika will try to find more creative designers for flyer to incorporate visual learning ideas on the flyer

There was a discussion about what should be contained in the section Materials (this name will be also subdivided in Documents or Visual Tools, later). Everybody agreed that in this section there should be short summaries of National Reports from country of participants and also short information about project in native language. If it is possible it will be excellent to put in this section short films (2-4 minutes) about visual methods and interactive exercises for learners. Section Materials should also contains guidelines for teachers, advice and recommendations (web site will be mainly for teachers but also for learners).

The next issue which was discussed was a Newsletter. Everybody agreed that it is useful element of web site. Newsletter will be a service of information. We will put there information about meetings and events within the Project. This section should be started in the end of Autumn. Partners decided that every information on the web site should be written in plain language, not academic.

### **Overview of local network(s) and “projects”**

All partners raised an issue about difficulties and obstacles to find partners to establish the local network. Partners exchanged their experience on searching partners to local network, and about finding a good strategy to motivate institutions to participate the Project. Obstacles to setting up local networks:

- Lack of awareness of who is already using Visual Learning;
- Lack of money to establish these networks;
- Practitioners don't have time.

We thought about “benefits” for them. How can we convince or motivate local institutions or practitioners? Strategy to find partners:

- Raise awareness about Visual Learning.
- Outline benefits: Improve their knowledge around Visual Learning and gain qualifications. They will get free training.
- Qualification workshop and 2 workshops in each country.

Trainers to get paid for:       2 days preparation time  
                                          2 days delivery time  
                                          1 day for evaluation and feedback

Furthermore they will receive a certificate of this course and they will become an “Expert” in visual learning. The idea is to find 2 partners to local network in every country.

Monika suggested to exchange the experiences (about searching partners to local network) by e-mail every month or regularly among partners, It should be useful to exchange experiences and strategies.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006 9.30-18.30**

### **Preparation of interviews with learners**

Originally foreseen as 12 interviews with learners. Now plan is discussion groups with learners - as already thought about during the kick off meeting.

Proposal: 2-3 group discussions with 5 or 6 learners per group and record it on tape.

Interview could be carried out by experienced practitioner researchers.

Partners will develop questionnaires for learner interviews. Monika will do up draft questionnaire. Fergus D will email NRDC to ask if we can reference and adapt their learner guidelines for interviewing students.

Interviewers/researchers will ask teachers to inform students about interviews.

Teachers should not be present during interviews. Teacher should introduce the interviewer/researcher and then leave.

Interviews to start in October.

Analysis the interviews in November.

### **Qualification workshop**

The main idea of this workshop is to train the teacher in visual methods and to sensitize them for visual learning. The person who will held a training should have practical knowledge and experience, but not only a theoretical bases.

For training day for Visual Learning, we need options for the trainer.

Fergus D will contact the Basic Skills Agency, the Basic Skills Unit and LLU+ for recommendations for a Visual Learning trainer.

Monika T will contact NIACE, NRDC and Prof. Roell (with whom she did the interview) for same.

The person who delivers the Visual Learning workshop should contribute to the training manual and CD rom. This will translated into the languages of the partners.

For 1 person from each country of participants and 1 person from local network Representative of local network will participate in workshop for free.

### **Planning work and the procedure**

Monika will sent to all partners in this month a new version of work plan (it is part of the mentioned above "Contractual Modification Form and application for extension".

The next meeting will be in January/February (probably 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007/1<sup>st</sup> February 2007)in Bonn. This meeting will be connected with a qualification workshop.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be probably in the end of September in Ireland. Fergus suggested that it will be a good idea to connect the last meeting with open-public seminar for teachers (probably it will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October ).

### **Dissemination, outputs and products**

The possibilities within the project which will be used for dissemination:

- networks of our organisations
- local networks within the project
- electronic newsletter
- announcement in magazines
- newspaper (next year)
- distribute the flyers (at the beginning not on the end of project)
- advertise the visualLearning Project at other training events, conferences and meetings
- a special edition of" Polish Journal of Continuing Education" (scientific – research quarterly) with an article about visualLearning Project

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

#### ***Monitoring***

Monika told that every partner should prepare monitoring reports (about 1-2 pages) when each period is due which should include information on:

- information about process
- establishment of local network
- development of concept with interviews with learners
- difficulties and weak points
- strategies of problem solving.

### **Evaluation**

There are two levels of evaluation:

- internal
- external.

Monika will prepare a draft for internal evaluation and send it to other partners by the end of September

External evaluation: the project will hire an external evaluator who will join at us at the meeting in Bonn in January. The evaluation will would focus on:

- Course content and results
- Group process
- Communication
- Commitment
- How to deal with issues as they arise.

### **Commitments and setting dates**

In this part of meeting were remained Administrative Aspects for VisuaLearning Project, including information on:

- staff costs
- subcontracts
- general costs
- reporting process

A new version of Administrative Aspects Monica will sent to all partners soon.

### **Work plan**

15<sup>th</sup> August– finish the National Reports (German, Irish, Romanian)

The end of August – a draft of interview with learners

January 07 – meeting in Bonn:      Wednesday 31 January meeting at 12.00 or 1.00  
                                                         Thursday 1 February – workshop  
                                                         Friday 2 February – 2 day of meeting  
                                                         Saturday 3 February – home

October 07 – event in Ireland:      Thursday 18 October – meeting  
                                                         Friday 19 October – half day conference 10.00 – 1.00

### **Concluding remarks**

The meeting was very fruitful. All the partners agreed on the dates and the procedure. All planned issues were discussed according to agenda.