EU Project: visuaLearning

Reference-No: **225773-CP-1-2005-1-DE-GRUNDTVIG-G1**

Monitoring Report 4

Reporting partner: IteE-PIB, Poland

Reporting period: 1. December 2006 – 30. April 2007

Introduction:
As described in the project proposal it is planned to write regularly monitoring reports.

The reports should include information on:
- *information about the progress*
- *establishment of local network*
- *development of group discussions with learners*
- *preparation of qualification workshops*
- *development of qualification concept*
- *difficulties and weak points*
- *strategies of problem solving.*

<u>*Remark*</u>*:* The frames are adaptable to the length of your answers.

Aspects for Monitoring Report

Progress of project
- **activities undertaken during the reporting period**

> **1. 1st group discussion**
> **2. 2nd group discussion**
> **3. Investigation**
> **4. Analysis of learning biographies (from 1st and 2nd group discussions)**
> **5. Dissemination**
> **6. Establishment of local network**
> **7. Course concept - preparation of trial national workshops** (in the proposal there are foreseen two national workshops - first one are called **'trial national workshops'** and second one are called **'1st national workshops'** - in my report I respect these terms and resulting - 1st will be called as 'trial' and second to be carrying on in the next period as '1st';)

- **successful experiences and / or events**

> We managed to carry out successfully **1st and 2nd group discussions** within the national network according to target group (adult people learning of foreign languages) as well as to the specification of the project (people in adult and third age);

We also successfully carried out the 3rd group discussion and trial workshops but the dates are not applicable in this reporting period;
During current 4th reporting period there was many opportunities for dissemination (see: dissemination form);

- **difficulties and weak points**

Group discussions - some organizational obstacles - adult people are not interested in participating in any kind of research when they have to stay longer after lessons for free (feedback from the 1st group discussion from the University of The Third Age in Radom);
Preparation of trial national workshops - qualification workshops in Bonn did not meet our expectations and as a result the great work concerning preparation of trial national workshops content had and have to be done by each partner; it makes a lot of problems to gather appropriate contents and prepare workshops taking into account a target group; help of specialists in this field is necessary;

- **feedback from others regarding the project**

Teachers, trainers of foreign languages as well as psychologists found the project very interesting; they see the need of talking about visual methods in a more specialized and formal way than it was till now; the idea of qualification workshops is seen by teachers as a very good method for persuading both teachers and students that visual methods are not just a play but also a very efficient way of teaching and learning;

Group discussions with learners

- **Description of target group(s)**

Adults students of foreign languages (English, German and others)
1st group - 06.12.2006
University of the Third Age (Radom)
6 people – English group - 3 of higher education and 3 of secondary education
all above 55 years

2nd group – 21.12.2006
Teacher Training Centre (Radom)
19 people – German group - all of secondary education
20-25 years

- **Results and findings**

- Foreseen duration of discussions groups does not fit to the reality - participants do not want to stay longer than 30-45 minutes;
- Due to the circumstances and some organizing issues we given up the idea of taking notes and encouraged two people to carry out the discussion; that was very effective and efficient method;
- detailed findings and results from group discussions are put into the common final report from three group discussions;

- **Consequences for the workshops and the qualification concept**

- prepare some integrating exercises at the beginning to make easier establishing a contact with participants
- to show teachers the examples of the use of some methods given by students during group discussions, their experiences and obstacles,
- take into account students` and teachers` awareness of visualization,

- to focus on the methods and practical examples rather than on the theory
- apart from the general understanding of visual learning to focus on the target group needs and expectations
- **remember that we are going to carry out national workshops with teachers, trainers etc. that means with people who have knowledge and experience and are used to teach not to be taught - the help of a specialist is needed because they could not think we are not prepared!**

Involvement of experts and establishment of local network

- **With whom did you work together?**

We still cooperate with :
1)Mrs Małgorzata Sobczak - psychologist from the secondary school in Radom;
2)Phd Ewa Turkowska - linguist, German teacher from Teacher Training Centre in Radom;
3)Mrs Jolanta Urbanelis from The University of the Third Age in Radom;

We also established new contacts with:
4) Mrs Alina Bogart - president of The University of The Third Age in Warsaw;
5) Mrs Elżbieta Ostapowicz - director of the foreign learning section of the University of The Third Age in Warsaw;
6) Mrs Małgorzata Jesionek - sworn translator, teacher of English and German;
7) Mrs Anna Pęksyk - teacher of German;
8) Mrs Ewa Wądołowska - psychologist;
9) Mrs Małgorzata Stanowska - lecturer of English at the University of The Third Age in Lublin

- **What have you done so far? What are your experiences?**

1) we got support concerning psychological aspects of learning for national report and also possibility of cooperation during national workshops;
2) realization of the 1st group discussion and initial works concerning trail workshops; dissemination;
3) realization of the 2nd group discussion; very good feedback, no problems
4) and 5) we tried to organize 3rd group discussion there but was not successful
6) initial works on the trial national workshops
7) initial works on the concept for national workshops and the contents;
8) initial cooperation concerning national workshops;
9) 3rd group discussion and trial national workshops (but not applicable to this reporting period); dissemination

The Universities of The Third Age in which we are interested the most have hardly money and are not very open on cooperation when they will not get any financial help for that; the project budget doesn`t foresees any money for participants of group discussions as well as for participants of national workshops so the cooperation is not very easy; that`s way I insist very much to use the draft of certificate and prepare certificates for participants - this could be a carrot and stick method to encourage them, especially they ask about some kind of paper proof;

Dissemination

- **What are your dissemination tools? (e.g. networks, magazines, newsletters…)**

1) ITeE web site
2) Journals - in ITeE we publish some journals and periodicals e.g. *Polish Journal of Continuing Education* ; *Work Pedagogy*
3) Networks
4) Serminars, conferences, study visits
5) Another projects and partnerships ITeE is involved in

- **What have you done? - Overview of activities in general (in addition: please fill in the specific "dissemination form")**

1) We put a link to visuaLearning project website on the website of ITeE;
2) New articles on visual methods and adult education are prepared and approved to be published in: *Polish Journal of Continuing Education* No. 2/2007 (in June);
3) ITeE is involved in few networks (at local, national and international level)
- *Polish network of modular training* which has been established in 2002; (national and international level)
- *Local network of visuaLearning project; Network of ITeE friend institutions*; (local and national level)
4) both organized by ITeE and visited by representatives from ITeE (see dissemination form)
5) we disseminate the idea of "visuaLearning" project within the other projects we carry out - during meetings and study visits organized within these partnerships (among others: TENKO project; ENTERPRISE for Europe project, e- Forminfo project; EUREVINQ project; I - Lab project);

Development of qualification concept

- **First steps**

- many of the institutions which are in our local and national networks were informed about national workshops which are going to be carried out with the possibility and request of cooperation;
- we also informed some others institutions/people that could be interested in this field;
- we got very positive feedback concerning this activity but there are problems concerning teachers - they are pleased to get any kind of certificate that they took part in such a kind of workshops - in many cases they are obliged to take a day off at school or the director send them on workshops but wants to see a kind of proof;
We established contacts with some teachers/experts (above mentioned):
Mrs Anna Pęksyk, Mrs Ewa Wądołowska, Mrs Małgorzata Stanowska

- **Country specific aspects or interests**

- practical methods; both to give examples and also to try to get some ideas from participants
- how participants are aware of visualization and do they practice these methods?
- connection between visual methods and new media (barriers met by adult people)

- **Open questions**

No

Preparation and testing of qualification workshop
First steps

- we made a reconnaissance within institutions and people of our networks as well as experts who could help us to prepare the contents of workshops, especially theoretical part which is much more specified and demands specific terms;

- **Country specific aspects or interests**

- to focus on the methods and practical examples rather than on the theory;
- to focus on the target group - teachers, trainers and people interested in visual methods in teaching and learning of foreign languages;
- to convince teachers that these methods are not only a play but also a very effective way of teaching and learning;
- help of expert is necessary;

- **Open questions**

The issue of possibility to prepare certificates for participants;
On Polish side - ITeE can use the draft and prepare and print certificates on its own;

- **Further steps**

- searching for experts and participants concerning the target group;
- organizational aspects of workshops - preparation of contents, programme, estimating timing of duration;

Remarks, questions and / or recommendations
- **Regarding the reporting period**

Some activities have been started during this reporting period e.g. preparation of trial workshops; even I managed to carry out the trial workshop in Poland I did not stated this in the 4th report because it is not applicable to this reporting period;

- **Regarding the further steps**

Question about certificates is still open, moreover is very urgent…

- **Regarding the cooperation between the partnership**

Very good, friendly and open atmosphere; exemplary cooperation;

City / Date: Radom, 31.05.2007

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