Gabriel Vrânceanu Ana Elisabeta Naghi Cuatu Georgeta

REPORT KICK-OFF MEETING ERASMUS+/K3 -SOCIAL INCLUSION OF LEARNERS (SoIL)



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From 9th to 11th of January, at Graz, Ostrich, Casa Corpului Didactic Bucuresti (Teacher Training Centre of Bucharest - TTCB) was represented by Mr. Gabriel Vrînceanu - as Head of TTCB- and Mrs. Ana Elisabeta Naghi - as member of the project team - to the kick-off meeting of the project "Social Inclusion of Learners – SoIL", Erasmus + K3, 580276-EPP-1-AT-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN.

The coordinator (c) and our partner institutions (p) were represented by:

- Walburga Frohlich (c)
- Stana Shenck (c)
- Karl Back (p)
- Sonja Giersberg (p)
- Monia Ben Larbi (p)
- Katia Musiolek (p)
- Gosia Kwiatkowska (p)
- Hermann Brunnhofer (p)
- Eva Bucht (p)
- Eveline Wiesenhofer (p)



09/01/2017

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Generalities about SoIL:

Implementation period - 1/12/2016-30/11/2018

Coordinating institution: atempo Betriebsgesellschaft mbH,

Austria - <u>http://www.atempo.at/en/Education/</u>

Partener institutions:

- Initiative Schule im Aufbruch gGmbH, **Germany** - <u>https://schule-im-aufbruch.de/</u>

- University of East London, **Great Britain** - <u>http://rixresearchand.wpengine.com/</u>

- GEMEENTE MAASTRICHT, the Netherlands
- CENTRUM PRE VYSKUM ETNICITY A KULTURY, Slovakia
- Teacher Training Centre of Bucharest, Romania

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Aim:

development of key competencies of younger with social disadvantages for a better social inclusion

Actions, final products and expected results:

- share of good, innovative an efficient practices for individualization/differentiation of learning (all partners);

- peer to peer learning, group approach (German partner), based on "easy readings" method (initiated and developed by atempo), improved by multimedia learning strategies (UK partner);

- methodological guide;

- online instrument for inter-evaluation (linked partners in SoIL project);

- study report about results of practice in groups of easy readings method;

- a film;

- an academic report.

Activities (proposals):

- meetings with partners;
- seminars for teachers (primary and secondary level);
- conferences (local or national level)
- dissemination activities (each partner)

It is important that actions for each partner are adapted to their national /regional specificity. Thus, SoIL strategies are focused on new immigrants (DE, AT, UK, NL), on pupils/younger with disabilities/ special needs (NL, DE, UK, AT, SL), or on minorities (SL, RO).

Sustainable actions:

- increase literacy competencies for learners through qualified teachers in adult learning activities and use of ICT.

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General Context of the Project Theme

Key expression: social inclusion

The WorlBank defines social inclusion as the process of improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of people, disadvantaged on the basis of their identity, to take part in society. (wikipedia)

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (part 1, paragraph 25), a document on international human rights instruments, affirms that "extreme poverty and social exclusion constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent steps are necessary to achieve better knowledge of extreme poverty and its causes, including those related to the program of development, in order to promote the human rights of the poorest, to put an end to extreme poverty and social exclusion and to promote the enjoyment of the fruits of social progress. It is essential for States to foster participation of the poorest people in the decision making process in the community in which they live, the promotion of human rights and the efforts to combat extreme poverty."

Social inclusion, demography and migration are some of the seven key challenges of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)

The strategy sets out the objective of creating a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations and to secure and increase the quality of life of citizens as a precondition for lasting individual well-being.(<u>http://ec.europa.eu/ eurostat/web/sdi/indicators/social-inclusion</u>).

09.01.2017 Let's know each other dinner



The purpose of this social event was to meet and greet all the participants to the project kick-off meeting.

At dinner, the participants shared their first impressions and made an informal presentation of themselves and their institution. It is important that we have found a lot of similarities between our own experiences and the others:

<u>migration</u> - some of them moved in another country; <u>the educational system</u> - which is a continuous challenge.

Most participants work in NGOs, but initially some of them started as teachers.

10.01.2017 Morning session - introduction of partners - expectations

The activities were carried out at atempo headquarters, in the presence of all project partners.

Stana Schenck, the Austrian project manager, opened the session by making a short introduction of the kick-off agenda and inviting the representatives of the partner countries to present their institution, their project team and the expertise in the project topic.

Previous to this meeting, each partner was asked to focus their presentation on skills and competencies, their expertise in European projects relevant to the objectives of the project. The synthetic presentations were followed by discussions. CCD made a Prezi presentation of the institution gave all partners a personalized folder with relevant documents about the team members and relevant short presentations of the previous international projects in which our institution was involved.



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The "Market of skills" moment pointed out that some of the partners will be core trainers due to their expertise in strategies and tools they have already been using in order to develop actions of social inclusion of youth with special learning needs: AT – easy reading, Germania – learning office, UK – using ICT to increase the quality of education.

The SoIL methods are to be gathered in guide for teachers from the partner countries who will be trained in this project.

Romanian representatives expressed their willingness to provide specific data for a study about the methods used to include the Rroma population.



In the second part of the morning session, the coordinator invited all the partners to bring their contribution to the Gantt chart considering the activities and their deadlines, project objectives and outcomes. The project activities envisaged are: conferences, training seminars (Box of Change, Learning Office, interactive learning platforms), implementation, round tables and upscalling.

Dissemination will be done using websites and folders.

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CCD assumed the following tasks:

- to organize a conference in Bucharest, in October 2017

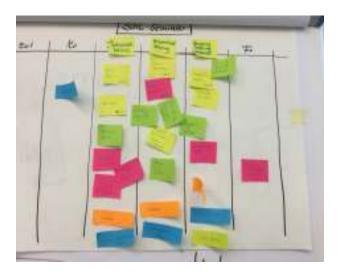
- to select and send teachers to the training seminar in Bratislava, in November

- to be an active participant and a monitor of the implementation process of the SoIL methods in the schools represented in the training seminar, in January and February 2018

- to present the results of the implementation at the conference in Maastricht, in March 2018

- to participate to the round table organized in September 2018





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10.01.2017 Afternoon session

This session was dedicated to a webinar with representatives of the EC from Brussels. The activity was extremely useful to clarify some organizational and financial issues. Yet, there are some issues which are to be agreed upon via atempo. After the webinar finished, Eveline Wiesenhofer presented the financial documents containing the amounts per partners and activities.



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11.01.2017 Visit to *atempo*

Our hosts from *atempo* presented their groups of employees and the specific activities developed by this NGO. Using specific atempo methods, the young employees, formally trained in this institution, develop social media applications for a data base about locations which offer facilities for persons with disabilities or applications adapted to the learning needs of these persons.



The practical part of the visit was insured by the ICT tools used in the activities with the youth, tools entirely developed by atempo experts or their associates; by a practical presentation of a "learning office" where learners of different ages exchange learning experiences (peer to peer learning), where teachers are monitors, use the "box of change" in their evaluation and highly motivate the learners.

At the end of the visit the participants were asked to create the logo of the project. Romania proposed a 6 fingered hand whose message is "being different is not exactly a negative fact".

