

PROSPER-ASE LANGUAGE CENTRE

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DEVELOPED DURING THE NELLIP WORKSHOP - 15 NOVEMBER 2013

Authors of the plan

This improvement plan was conceived by the participants in one of the three work groups in the 1st NELLIP workshop organised by PROSPER-ASE Language Centre on 15 November 2013, in Bucharest, Romania. The discussion in the work group focused on Networking and on how the Guidelines produced by the NELLIP partnership could help project promoters improve the visibility of their already running projects or of future projects.

The participants were teachers in higher education institutions and secondary schools in Romania, with different levels of experience in terms of European projects in the field of language education.

Description of the Initiative

"Cinco" (www.projectocinco.eu)

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=10224#.U3cW4fmSySM>

is a Leonardo - Transfer of Innovation project (2011-1-PT1-LEO05-08609) which received funding from the European Union between 2011 and 2013. It was coordinated by the Universidade Catolica Portuguesa and it had 17 partners from European countries where Romance languages are spoken (France, Spain, Italy, Romania, Portugal)

The aim of CINCO project was to integrate intercomprehension (IC) to vocational training (in a situation of lifelong learning). The main objective that the project intended to achieve was to provide a device for the learning of IC between Latin languages, aimed at developing specific communication skills for work situations of European cooperation.

Therefore, the project mobilized tools that were already produced under different ECPs and were available online or in paper format. It then created a modular structure, incorporating these materials and adapted them to the specific needs of a professional audience of adults in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Romania.

Furthermore, these tools were validated through their experimental application in the context of vocational training (employees of institutions with social and educational aims)

Another project objective was to disseminate the opportunities of free use of these tools in the context of lifelong education of professionals involved in European cooperation activities (industry, trade, services) in the partner countries and creating a European network of trainers who may accompany such training.

The project was thus committed to helping develop essential competences in the European professional world, i.e. language and intercultural competences.

Reason why this initiative was selected

This initiative was brought to the attention of the NELLIP workshop participants by Ms. Angela Cotoară, president of Professional Language Centre in Targu Mures, one of the project partners in the Cinco project.

At the time the workshop was taking place, the funding period of the "Cinco" project had finished. Its website contains all the valuable materials produced as described above and because the project partners believe in their usefulness they were interested in further developing the network of teachers and trainers capable to use the project products in order to provide training to the target groups.

Development of an improvement plan

During the NELLIP workshop, Ms. Cotoară briefly presented the importance of the materials developed as part of the Cinco project and mentioned as a strong point the fact that the project has an active website where all the materials developed by the project partners were available, free of charge.

However, it was felt that the project needed to be continued in order for more people to benefit from the advantages of intercomprehension. The project website alone was considered to be insufficient in order to spread the information effectively.

In this sense the partners were looking for the most effective methods to expand the network and increase the number of visitors of the project website and users of the project products.

Drawing on the information in the NELLIP Guidelines, especially in the chapter on Networking, the workshop participants brainstormed possible solutions to increasing the networking potential of the Cinco Project.

The following suggestions were made:

- Involving (all) the project partners in the “Cinco” project in the post-project networking activity
- Creating a database of educational institutions in the Romance speaking countries and not only which may be interested in promoting intercomprehension
- Contacting their representatives and highlighting the benefits of using the Cinco project materials
- Inviting them to become associated members of the project
- Asking them to further promote the Cinco project through their own networks
- Attracting funds for further updating the project website with the latest developments (events, news, feedback etc.)

Expected impact

Hopefully, taking advantage of the enthusiasm of the project promoter and members and their commitment to the project objectives, such activities can be carried out. In this case, it is expected that the ideas promoted by the Cinco project will be further disseminated and more people will benefit from the advantages of intercomprehension.

Ms. Cotoară said that she would take the suggestions further to the other project partners. She also said that this could represent the starting point of a new project, focusing on networking and that a project proposal could be elaborated.

This discussion highlighted the valuable information in the NELLIP Guidelines, which can provide inspiration for a variety of situations.