

Workshop

Developing and Managing Successful Language Projects

organizat în cadrul proiectului NELLIP - Rețea de inițiative distinse cu certificatul European Language Label (519129-LLP-1-2011-1-IT-KA2-KA2N)

Minutes

Date: 11.03.2014

Duration: 12:00 – 16:00

Organizer: Fundatia EuroEd

Section 1: Introduction and familiarization with the participants

Mrs. Anca Cristina Colibaba, as EuroEd Foundation executive president and national coordinator of the Nellip project, was the main moderator of the workshop and started the activities by presenting herself and the represented institution.

- Presentation of Fundatia EuroEd (organizational history, educational activity on European projects, etc.)
- Introduction to the auspice of the workshop, the Nellip project (presentation of the main aim of the project and topics reached)
- Presentation of the moderators (Elza Gheorghiu – language teacher and trainer, with vast experience in European project; Andreea Ionel – coordinator of the European projects department of EuroEd, with experience in development and implementation of projects)
- Presentation of the participants: 17 participants joined the workshop, from 7 different institutions (Teachers in primary education: 5; Teachers in secondary education: 9; School principal: 1; University teacher: 1; Project assistant: 1)

Section 2: Introduction to the European Language Label

Mrs. Anca Cristina Colibaba moderated the section.

- Introduction of the topic of the workshop – Quality in language, and not all, projects in the context of the European Schools Awards Registrations, of the European Language Label and Erasmus+ projects applications.
- Discussions were raised concerning the applications for the European Schools Awards, which focused in the involvement of the schools/teachers in promoting the European values in their educational activities and projects implemented. Also there were discussions on the priorities and focuses of the Erasmus+ new programme.

- The participants were involved in identifying the strong and positive points of getting involved in projects (development of multi-competences, enriching experiences and expertise, participation in trainings and workshops, participation in European meetings, professional contacts, engagement of the students, etc.). The discussions when on how to identify ways of motivating teachers to get involved in project, taking into account the lack of time and the over busy curricula.
- Introduction on the European language label competition. No one of the participants has not applied for this award before. They heard about the competition, their representative of the school Inspectorate for the European projects have sent announcements on this competition, but they don't have too many information about.
- Presentation of the history of the ELL, types of projects addressed – language projects, coordinators/ accreditors of the award, awards categories – individual and projects. The most important part was the presentation and discussions on the selection criteria. The presented criteria were accompanied by examples from projects awarded.
- Discussions on the importance of bearing in mind when developing project of the added value of the proposed project idea, of its originality and creativity and of its transferable innovation. The teachers raised the idea of the importance of transferring the knowledge in new contexts, to motivate and develop competences, in accordance with the continues changes in the society and about the role of existing multi voices to focus on development of competences through projects and not by the hard work of only one person.
- The representatives of the Eminescu and Vasile Alecsandri schools presented some of their institutional projects and discussed about the problems encountered during the implementation.
- Presentation of the national and EU priorities of ELL and details on the candidature.
- Presentation of case studies of awarded projects (schools involvement, projects ideas, concepts, approaches, activities, way of implementation, innovative elements, skills developed).
- Discussions on the fact that in schools there are not many language projects. Most of the projects are Comenius, with focus on professional skills development, cultural exchanges. Due to the fact that the level and results of the foreign languages disciplines are high, most of the teachers focus on different type of projects. Discussions on the idea that having EU projects the language competences are always involved, just need to be exploited.
- Discussions on the ELL impact and benefits. This section raised the interest of the participants to focus more on projects.

Section 3: Presentation of the Nellip project

Mrs. Andreea Ionel moderated this section

- Presentation of the project (main idea, partnership with focus on the expertise of each partner, objectives, who is addressing – the importance of having all educational categories (schools, vocational, higher and adult education), short presentation of the planned activities of the project.
- Presentation on the project website and platform
- Presentation of each section of the portal and of the history of project activities (the research activities, the process of collecting information on the awarded project and how we reached the best practices, the availability of information from many countries)
- Presentation of the resources sections, with useful links and announcements on various events. Discussions on the usefulness of the portal as being a repository of resources and ideas of projects and successful activities which can be transferred to other contexts.
- Presentation of the Guidelines sections, with a short introduction on the aim and content of the Nellip Guidelines, with the focus and practical examples on various categories, and language availability.

Section 4: Presentation of the Nellip Guide

Mrs. Elza Gheorghiu moderated this section

- Presentation of the usability of the guide for presenting information on each step of project development.
- Presentation of the guide categories
- Discussions on what quality means. Participants were invited to share ideas (brings something new, bring an added value to the context and target group, meet needs)
- Discussions on who are the consumers (pupils, teachers, schools, parents, authorities and institutions from the educational field). Discussions on how to plan the target group and the importance on planning how to reach their needs. The importance on involving the target group in the project activities and in developing the project from the beginning, to be able to satisfy and motivate them according to their expectations.
- Discussions on how to set the objectives and the results to be reached.

- Discussions on how plan your project (start from an idea, set the target groups and activities, check with representatives of the target group the expected impact, plan the results, set a strong and solid management and monitoring process, plan the evaluation and feedback, count on communication, plan in details the gphant chart of implementation of the activities).
- Discussions on how to plan the activities according to the budget and human resources expertise. Discussions on the reporting system and on how to manage problems.
- Discussions on how to ensure quality on projects. Main ideas raised – coherence between activities, objectives, results and take into consideration the feedback received from the target group and integrate it in the adaptation of the resources created. The teachers also mentioned that quality should be present in their general educational activity (building the learning process as a puzzle, involve parents, identify pupils needs and adapt teaching, introduce innovation, evaluation and self-evaluation).
- Discussions on how to ensure innovation on projects. Main ideas raised – bring always something new in the content, target group, activities, instruments, educational methodologies; adapt to the new society requirements – need to develop lessons based on online resources, social media impact, introduce more practical and interactive methodologies.
- Presentation and discussions on the importance and role of the dissemination and exploitation activities within projects. Difference between concepts, for a better understanding, ways and tips on how to plan the dissemination/exploitation strategies. Sharing examples of dissemination activities and their impact.
- Discussions on the role of the networking in projects. Role of experiences exchange.

Section 5: Practical activities (development of improvement plans)

For this activity the participants were distributed in two groups. Because of the fact that they weren't very experienced in projects development, we agreed to collaborate in developing new project ideas and to set a basic plan of the project, highlighting the Innovation, Dissemination/Exploitation and Quality.

1st group idea: Developing foreign languages competences for different professional fields

2nd group idea: Raising awareness of the impact that a historical conflict has today on the present communities

They develop ideas for aim, objectives, target group, main activities, results, innovation, dissemination/exploitation activities and quality.

After they filled in the improvement plans the selected representatives from each group were invited to share their ideas and all the participants were invited to discuss and debate, add ideas on the projects and activities suggested.

Section 6: Online meeting (through Skype)

Andreea Ionel, explained to the participants the role and the structure of this section, saying that we will get in contact with one of the partners, from Bulgaria, where they are involved in the same type of workshop and to share experiences on the aspects discussed and issues raised during the activities and to present the ideas of the improvement plans.

The connection being set Andreea welcomed the partners from Bulgaria and presented shortly the team from Romania and invited the Bulgarian moderator, Raya to present briefly the aspects presented by the partners from Sweden, who finished earlier than our workshop. Raya presented the type of the participants of the workshops from Sweden and their improvement plan ideas.

Then Anca Colibaba, briefly presented the activities held up to now and the ideas, remarks raised. And invited the partners from Bulgaria to also share their activities and impressions. Most of the aspects presented/ discussed on both countries raised the importance and usability of guidance the teachers in applying for EU projects.

Then the representatives of the 2 groups from Romania were invited to share the idea and the activities of the improvement plans. And Raya presented the ideas proposed by the teachers from Bulgaria and discussed on the potentiality of really implementing the projects ideas, even were sent invitations for setting partnerships.

Section 7: Feedback and Conclusions

Participants were invited to discuss on the aspects raised by the partners from Bulgaria and to think on the possibility of implementing the ideas distributed. As a conclusion of the meeting the participants were invited to express their opinions and key words on what quality in language projects means:

- Multicultural dimension
- Presentation of information
- Digital component
- Multiple Intelligence
- Communication
- Time, human resources, content management
- Coherence of context, needs, activities, skills

- Adapting to learning styles and needs
- Feedback loop
- Team skills
- Cultural Competence
- Expanding the cultural horizon
- Impact
- Ability to forecast
- Applicability
- Coherent vision and structure
- Collaborative Learning
- Personal and Professional Development
- Trans disciplinary Resources
- Interpersonal Relations
- Partnerships
- Exchange of experiences
- Authenticity
- Liability needs
- Involvement parties
- Self-Assessment

Section 8: Nellip Network

- Andreea Ionel presented the Nellip network and its role and benefits.
- Presentation of the Facebook page and invitation of the participants to get in contact and to share ideas on the questions addressed on the page. To facilitate the collection of ideas and because of the fact that not all the participants have a Facebook account we decided to collect their answers during the workshop.
- Presentation of the case studies on the portal and invitation of the participants to comment and share ideas on the project ideas presented.

Section 9: Evaluation

Participants were invited to fill in the evaluation form.