

WP 3.6 – REPORT ON WORKSHOP 1

1) Information

Second workshop organized in Iasi, by Fundatia EuroEd was held on 14 of March 2014. The venue of the workshop was at the premises of Fundatia EuroEd.

The name of the workshop was “Developing and Managing Successful Language Projects” and was disseminated and organized with support from the Iasi County School Inspectorate (<http://www.isjiasi.ro/>). Iasi County School Inspectorate is the public authority in charge of representing the Romanian Ministry of Education in Iasi County and they were responsible for distributing invitations on the workshop among the data base of teachers from Iasi County, they also monitored all the workshops and teachers involvement.

2) Participants

The focused educational sectors for the 2nd workshop were higher and adult education. We had also representatives of the secondary and vocational education.

- Schools: 5
- Higher Education: 14
- Adult education: 8

20 participants joined the workshop, from 7 different institutions all located in Iasi and Pascani.

No.	Name of participant	Institution	Profession	Area of expertise
1.	Arhip Cristian	UMF Iasi	Asist Dr.	Romanian Language
2.	Ruginosu Teodora	Formare Studia	President	Economy, management, Trainer
3.	Croitoru Irina	UMF Iasi	Asist	German language
4.	Gardikiotis Rodica	UMF Iasi	Asist Dr.	Romanian Language
5.	Polozova Arina	Univ. Al I Cuza Iasi	PhD	Economy
6.	Baiceanu Lucian	Univ. Al I Cuza Iasi	MA	Economy
7.	Sandulovici Ana	Univ. Al I Cuza Iasi	Lector Dr.	French language
8.	Andrei Cocarta Luminita	Univ. Al I Cuza Iasi	Conf. Dr.	English language
9.	Ludmila Braniste	Univ. Al I Cuza Iasi	Conf. Dr.	Romanian Language
10.	Nimigean Gina	Univ. Al I Cuza Iasi	Asist Dr.	Romanian Language
11.	Bosinceanu V. Delia	LTMA Iasi Technologic secondary school	Prof	French language
12.	Cobzaru Andra	Liceul Teoretic Bogdan-Voda	Prof, school counsellor	Couselling

13.	Colibaba Cintia	USAMV Iasi	Asistent univ., Dr. Ing.	Viticulture
14.	Dinu Claudia Elena	UMF "Gr. T. Popa" Iasi	Lector univ. dr.	French languages
15.	Greco Ioana	UMF "Gr. T. Popa" Iasi	Asist. Univ. dr.	English language
16.	Bucataru Iulia	CFR Technologic school Pascani	Prof	Romanian Language
17.	Stiurca Gina	LTMA Iasi Technologic secondary school	Prof.	French language
18.	Rusu Madalina	LTMA Iasi Technologic secondary school	Prof.	Technical disciplines
19.	Colibaba Stefan	UAIC Iasi	Prof. Dr.	English language
20.	Cretu Ioana	UMF Iasi	Asist. Univ. dr.	English language

3) Programme of the workshops

- 11.30 – 11.50 Introduction and familiarization of the participants
- 11.50 – 12.20 Quality in linguistic educational projects European Linguistic Certificate. Examples of good practices.
- 12.20 – 13.00 The NELLIP project and the guide for the development of quality linguistic projects
- 13.00 – 13.15 Coffee Break
- 13.15 – 14.00 Team work to compile a project proposal
- 14.00 – 14.30 Nellip network. What does "success" mean in an educational/linguistic project
- 14.30 – 15.00 Video-call with participants from a different country who have the same type of workshop. Exchange of experiences, quality indicators and initiatives.
- 15.00 – 15.30 Questions and evaluation

4) Moderators and experts involved

Anca Colibaba, executive president, has over 30 years of experience in language education, especially English. She is the President of EuroEd, having a wide experience in managing and co-ordinating transnational projects in the field of linguistic education and training, adult education and LLL. She was / is project coordinator of over 20 (EU) projects implemented locally, nationally or trans-nationally by EuroEd Foundation.

Andreea Ionel is project manager at EuroEd Foundation. She holds a bachelor and an MA degree in social work, with extensive experience in developing projects in non-governmental institutions. Skills and experience in project management of EU projects and project team member in all the national and transnational projects implemented by EuroEd Foundation (Grundtvig, Lingua, Leonardo da Vinci, Erasmus+, Phare, other tenders).

Elza Gheorghiu, trainer and teacher of English and Romanian as a foreign language at EuroEd Foundation, British Council and Vasile Alecsandri High School Iasi, Romania. She coordinates international educational projects. Her field of interest covers work with innovative educational web 2.0 methodologies in training/teaching and non-formal education. Target group for her teaching/training: young learners and adults. A special area of intervention is training special needs children and their teachers for foreign language communication.

No extra experts involved.

5) Materials used

The folders participants included:

- Workshop agenda
- Project brochure in Romanian
- Project presentation in Romanian
- Checklist from the Guidelines in Romanian
- Template with questions from Facebook Nellip network page
- Examples of case studies
- Template of improvement plan
- Certificate
- Other dissemination materials

During the workshop the following materials were used:

- Presentation of ELL in Romania – ppt.
- Presentation of the Nellip project – ppt.
- Presentation of the Nellip project portal
- Presentation of the Nellip Guidelines – ppt.

6) Conclusions

The aim of the workshop was to familiarize teachers with the NELLIP Network. This network aims at promoting language learning initiatives/projects, which have received the European Language Label, as the highest appreciation of their quality.

The participants were informed about the main criteria in assessing language projects as well as the current political priorities of the European Commission in the field of language learning. The databases which enable free access to a selection of best practices developed in the framework of projects and initiatives were of particular interest. Participants also agreed that the Guidelines developed by the Nellip Network will be an important tool they will use when applying for the European Label. The representatives of the universities admitted that they had never applied because they thought that the selection criteria were very difficult to meet (especially originality criterion). The workshop helped them clarify and even dispel some doubts.

All participants agreed that the workshop helped them a lot by informing them about the European Language Label and provided them with reliable strategies and hands-on instructions on how to apply for such an award. Everybody was of the opinion that the workshop was useful and they looked forward to implementing the information acquired in their institutions.

7) Minutes of the workshops

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: 20 participants joined the workshop, from 7 different institutions (Teacher in secondary education: 5; University teacher: 12; Adult education: 1 ; Other (MA student and PhD student): 2)

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 Language Label and Erasmus+ projects applications.
- Discussions were raised concerning the priorities and focuses of the Erasmus+ new programme.
- The participants were involved in discussing about the importance of foreign languages as instrument to support the development of general competences. Creation of conditions for languages to be used in other contexts also, in the real daily life, as person or profession.
- Introduction on the European language label competition. Universities are not represented in ELL competition, only one University applied and won the award many years ago. Discussions on the reasons why Universities not get involved.
- 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.
- Discussions on the role of the non-formal education.

- Presentation of the national and EU priorities of ELL and details on the candidature.
- Presentation of case studies of awarded projects (universities involvement, projects ideas, concepts, approaches, activities, way of implementation, innovative elements, skills developed).
- Discussions on the ELL impact and benefits. This section raised the interest of the participants to focus more on projects. Participants shared some ideas on what impact can have on the HE education: transdisciplinarity, online support, students' motivation, innovation, cross-curricular education.

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 (students, teachers, universities, 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

- Presentation of awarded projects as example on how to involve beneficiaries: “Theatergruppe Babylonia”. In this project, non-German-speaking employees work together with international students at the University of Regensburg on the production of a theatre play. German language skills are developed in the many rehearsals of the play that take place. Pronunciation and syntax are rehearsed as well.
- Discussions on how to set the objectives and the results to be reached. SMART criteria.
- 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, identify students’ needs and adapt teaching, introduce innovation, evaluation and self-evaluation).
- Presentation of examples of projects. Discussion on the usage and efficiency of the CLIL method in teaching process. How to transform your teaching process in an interactive and attractive method by teaching a discipline through a foreign language.
- Discussions on how difficult is to write a project application. Most of the participants mentioned how afraid are of developing a project application, they have ideas, they know the students’ needs, but is difficult to transform the ideas in proper text for the application. We discussed on the EU project management jargon – what is behind the terms used in managing projects.
- 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 3 groups: one group of secondary teachers, because they can share the same interest and address to the same target group; a group of HE teachers from Cuza and USAMV Universities, who decided to collaborate in elaboration of a new project idea and a group of teachers from UMF university to work on an initiative already available and to provide input for improvements.

1st group idea: Getting the foreign language teachers accustomed with the special terminology

2nd group idea: After School for preventing school dropout

3rd group idea: improvement plan for the project idea on Development of vocational language skills for international learners

Group 1 and 2 develop ideas for aim, objectives, target group, main activities, results, innovation, dissemination/exploitation activities and quality. Group 3 analysed the content of the available project idea and worked on offering input and ideas for improving the application, by structuring the title, objectives, target groups, activities and results.

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 Lithuania, 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 Lithuania and presented shortly the team from Romania and invited the Lithuanian moderator, Olga to present briefly their group.

Then Anca Colibaba, briefly presented the activities held up to now and the ideas, remarks raised. And invited the partners from Lithuania 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 3 groups from Romania were invited to share the ideas and the activities of the improvement plans. And Olga presented the ideas proposed by the teachers from Lithuania and discussed on the potentiality of really implementing the projects ideas, even were sent invitations for setting partnerships.

During the meeting we faced with some technical problems because of the slow internet connexion, and the participants from Romania weren't able to hear very well the Lithuanian discourse. Olga, as moderator, promised to the participants from Romania to send to them the improvement plans for evaluation and feedback.

Section 7: Feedback and Conclusions

Participants were invited to discuss on the aspects raised by the partners from Lithuania 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 is Success in language projects:

- common interests

- knowledge of project
- feedback
- organization
- media
- utility
- addresses a group of people interested
- common language
- perseverance
- evaluation and self-evaluation
- team working with shared interests
- close relationship with partners
- visibility of the project
- attractiveness
- homogeneity
- needs analysis
- availability
- internal and external communication
- balanced relationship theory - practice
- adapting to the needs of the target group
- Reality
- strangeness project
- solving problems
- involvement and participation in decision-making
- team work
- plan and strategy for dissemination and exploitation
- managerial balance
- sustainability
- retrieval of all participants in the project agenda
- time management
- motivating the target group
- exceed targets and goals
- transfer of innovation
- creative methodologies and attractive
- innovative elements

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.

8) Evaluation Report

No. of participants: 20

City and Country: 19 participants are from Iasi and 1 from Pascani, Romania

Professions:

- Teacher in secondary education: 5
- University teacher: 12
- Adult education: 1
- Other (MA student and PhD student): 2

Area of expertise:

- Language teacher – English: 4
- Language teacher – French: 4
- Language teacher – Romanian: 5
- Language teacher – German: 1
- Technical disciplines: 3
- School counsellor: 1
- Economy, Management: 2

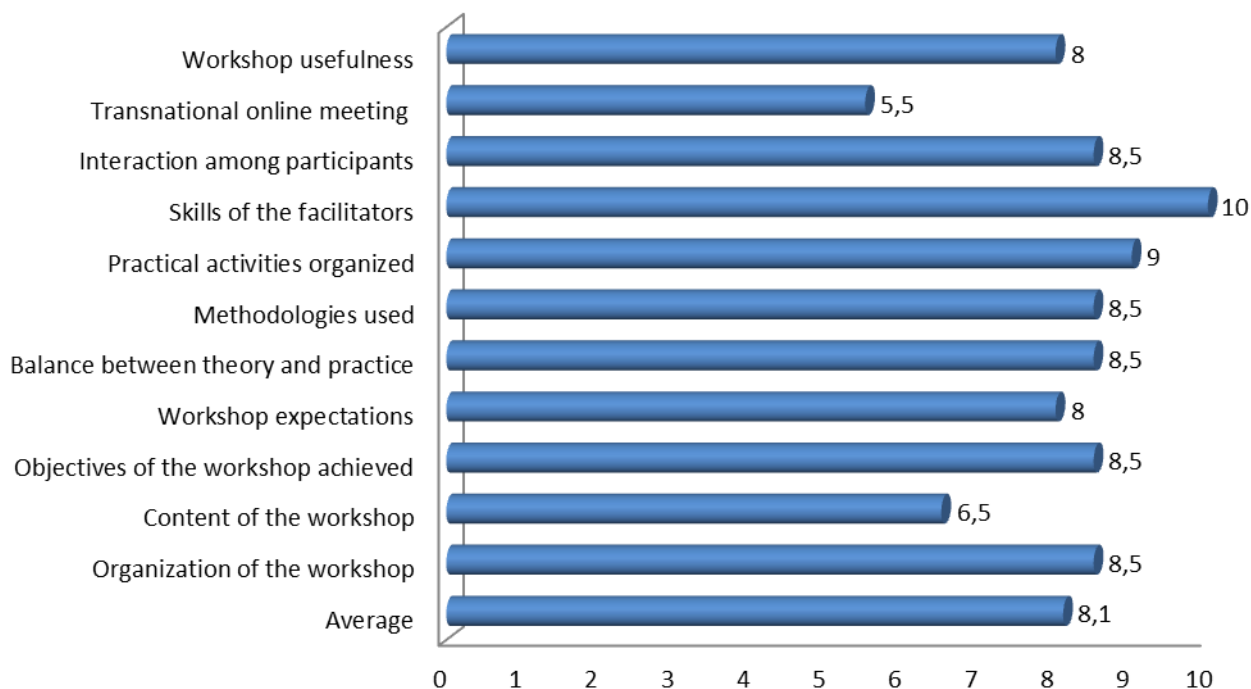
The reasons why the participants get involved in the NELLIP Workshop?

- My will to know things and to be informed
- Getting accustomed with the linguistic projects
- New useful information. Dynamic activities.
- Curiosity, the will to learn and be informed regarding linguistic projects
- Life long learning, acquiring new competences and new contacts
- Improving the system of workin within projects
- Personal development, widening the technological capacity. Compiling projects on intercultural and communication domains
- Out of curiosity and willing to learn more about international projects
- For educational training
- Formation/personal and profesional development.
- I expected to get more information on how to develop projects, various ideas and examples of successful projects and to find out more on the students' needs and how to respond to these needs through innovative and creative projects.
- My expectations were to gain more information and competences for applying for EU projects and to collect good ideas.
- As a teacher who teaches in a vocational school the role of languages for professional development is not always clear enough; my school has not been aware about the distinction European label, that is way I was curious to find more information on this.
- I hoped to have the chance to become candidate for European label awards and to brainstorm ideas on how to make it a success.
- My university develops the project "TakeCare" and we take into consideration the fact to apply for ELL and I decided to participate in this workshop to find more on how to apply and what to highlight in the application.

- I really appreciate all the organizer's work and activities and I was convinced that the information acquired would be a great asset for me.

Responses to the closed questions:

Questions:	Poor	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨	⑩	Excellent
	7											10
organization of the workshop								3				17
content of the workshop				4				3				13
objectives of the workshop achieved								3				17
workshop consistent with your expectations				1				3				16
balance between theory and practice				1				2				17
methodologies used								3				17
practical activities organized								2				18
skills of the facilitators												20
interaction among participants				1				2				17
transnational online meeting beneficial	1			2				6				11
workshop usefulness								4				16



With an average of 8,1 the overall evaluation of the workshop was positive. Most of the participants highly appreciated the practical activities of the workshop and the preparation and information transferred by facilitators. Also the organization of the workshop and the objectives, the methodologies and interaction among participants were achieved greatly. The lowest average was for the transnational online meeting (5,5/10) because of the technical problems we faced, the volume was very low because of the slow internet connection and the participants had to struggle to hear the aspects presented by the partners from Lithuania.

Comments received:

- I really appreciated the information and experiences shared by the organizers. The workshop was very good organized, in terms of time and information shared. The discussions held increased my interest in developing more consolidated projects within my Department from the University and to be able to apply for EU awards like ELL.
- Great projects ideas. We had the possibility to develop more on the idea of the project already in development; it was great to check the feasibility of the proposed activities and to add more ideas. It was a pity that we could not hear very well the project ideas of the partners from Lithuania.
- In the interactive part of the activities I had the chance to interact with teachers from other national schools and to work on elaborating the idea of a project with common interests.
- It was a great opportunity to disseminate and discuss about the projects and activities I developed in my school.
- I appreciated the chance to network with colleagues from other HE institutions. My group identified new projects and we collaborated and decided to continue to work on really implementing the idea. It was very useful to find more about which are the needed innovative and quality elements for our projects.
- We would appreciate very much to join the Nellip network.
- Great opportunity on sharing project ideas. Raising awareness on tips on quality and innovative elements on projects.
- The meeting was very pleasant and useful. I really had some project ideas after the meeting. I had the opportunity to meet great professionals and also old friends.
- These organizers don't stop surprising me in a very positive way.
- A very positive interaction.
- Everything was ok!
- Little problems with the Skype connection. The idea was great but unfortunately due to the technical problems we were unable to hear the partner
- I really enjoyed it very much.
- The presentations and the workshop were very good elaborated and I was very pleased to be able to participate.
- Attending this workshop helped me improve my know- how.
- I very much appreciated the interactive approach
- I liked the presentation and the welcoming from the organizers
- Collaboration
- The fact that the organizers were very involved.

9) Results and Deliverables

1. Key words on what is Success in language projects
2. 3 Improvement plans :
 - 1st group idea: Getting the foreign language teachers accustomed with the special terminology
 - 2nd group idea: After School for preventing school dropout
 - 3rd group idea: improvement plan for the project idea on Development of vocational language skills for international learners

10) Photos



11) Videos

Sent as attachment