

“Integration, Volunteerism and Adult Learning, through an Intercultural Pathway” - IVALIP

3rd Partnership Meeting Report

**Lithuania, Vilnius
May 6-10, 2009**

The third partnership meeting was hosted by Association LIA / Window to the Future and held in Vilnius (Lithuania) in May 6-10, 2009.

21 person participated in this meeting from all partner organizations: Intercultura-AFS Portugal (4 people), Polish Humanitarian Organization, Poland (4 people), Giresun Halk Egitimi Merkezi ve Aso Mudurlugu, Turkey (4 people), Foundation Institute of Transnational Education and Research, Slovakia (3 people) and Association LIA / Window to the Future, Lithuania (6 people).

Detailed meeting programme is attached in annex.

Objectives of the meeting:

- To held train-the-trainer seminar for trainers in non-formal education,
- To present and test in practice workshop activities,
- To make SWOT analyze of the results,
- To present the virtual game for inclusion,
- To prepare the contents of the first year of the project,
- To check the objectives and the results for the project evaluation aims,
- To prepare next phase activities.

Description of the activities, according to the meeting programme:

Wednesday, May 6th

Wednesday was reserved for partners' arrivals. Partners from Poland and Turkey arrived earlier this day and met with LIA representative in the hotel at 17.00 h. The group walked through main street of Lithuanian capital Vilnius - Gediminas ave., had a chance to see Lithuanian Parliament and some attributes of recent history.

As partners from Portugal and Slovakia came later this evening, the work on a project started next day.

Thursday, May 7th

In the morning the work on a project started. Firstly Loreta Križinauskienė, managing director of Association LIA / Window to the Future, welcomed all participants, made a short presentation about LIA, presented the detailed meeting programme, handed in the seminar materials to all participants.

During the first working day project coordinator Intercultura-AFS Portugal presented different activities of the volunteer train-the-trainer seminar in non-formal education (only the first activity was Lithuanian). These activities were tested in practice with active involvement of all meeting participants.

Activities of train-the-trainer seminar:

- 1) Ice-breaking activity **“Human Bingo”** - presented by LT partner. This activity is suitable for the first meeting of adult students, seminar participants, etc. in non-formal education. It can be used for the purpose to know other people better and to feel more fluent during learning process. Detailed description of the activity is attached in annex.
- 2) **Defining differences among formal / non-formal / informal education and teacher / trainer / facilitator.** The goal of the activity is to define and understand different forms of education.

Firstly, after discussions in 4 groups following conclusions were made (detailed description of the activity is attached in annex):

- everybody clearly understands the definition of formal education as a school, college, university, etc. education;
- non-formal education is an activity with certain goals, planning and structure (a good example of non-formal education is our IVALIP project);
- informal education is spontaneous and happening without specific intention to learn;

- trainer in non-formal education is a person who organises group work and also transfers his/her knowledge;
- facilitator in non-formal education is a person who just organises group work, but doesn't transfer his/her knowledge to the group.

Secondly, a task to present information about swine flue in different ways (formal, non-formal and informal) was given to groups of partner countries (detailed description of the activity is attached in annex).

Thirdly, every partner group got a task to draw an animal and to provide trainer's necessary and unfavourable characteristics. This task was useful for understanding trainer's profile. A conclusion was made that prospective trainer must define himself through the view of necessary characteristics and to improve his weak sides (detailed description of the activity is attached in annex).

Finally, an evaluation of the previous activities was made. According to participants' opinion they were very useful and well planned (detailed description of the evaluation activity is attached in annex).

- 3) Intercultural learning activity "**Pijuns&Junpis**" demonstrated, that even people from different cultures with various languages, behaviour and habits can communicate. Detailed description of the activity is attached in annex.
- 4) During team building activity "**Let's build together...**" 4 groups of participants from different partner countries were formed. Each group was provided with a task to paint together a home for orphan children as they imagine, only without talking to each other. This task appeared to be fun and possible without big arguing 😊. Detailed description of the activity is attached in annex.
- 5) One more team building activity "**Jump over the hedge**" appeared to be one of most difficult during the first working day. It required not only physical efforts, but also well-thought group work and trusting other team members. Detailed description of the activity is attached in annex.
- 6) Previous three activities were followed with the interesting form of evaluation - every seminar participant had to draw their opinion about one of the activities.
- 7) Last activity of the first working day was designing a training in a non-formal education "**Let's bake a cake!**". As "ingredients of a cake" seminar participants

mentioned all necessary attributes to plan the training: knowledge, trainer(s), target group, purpose and objective, preparation or plan, time, place, materials and logistics, budget, good mood and motivation, methodology, evaluation, political and institutional context. Every theme was also described in detailed (description of the activity is attached in annex). This activity was very useful for understanding the structure and recourses needed for the training in its planning phase.

After long and very productive working day all partners walked to have dinner in the restaurant in Uzupis - one of the oldest parts of Vilnius city.

Friday, May 8th

Starting from the very morning partner countries presented their workshop activities for the train-the-trainer seminar (activity proposed by association LIA / Window to the Future was tested the day before):

- 1) Partners from Foundation Institute of Transnational Education and Research (Slovakia) presented 4 activities, that can be used in non-formal education:
 - Activity for introducing of a group of people with each other - writing names on a bingo sheet,
 - Introduction activity for remembering better other people in a group - Introduction bingo,
 - Team-building activity “Hands-legs”,
 - Team building and brainstorming activity - to guess what name is written on your back while asking questions.

Detailed description of the activities is attached in annex.

- 2) Partners from Giresun Halk Egitimi Merkezi ve Aso Mudurlugu (Turkey) presented activity “**To share the time effectively**”. It was a game encouraging better team work - following the instructions to find hidden notes and to reach goal. Detailed description of the activity is attached in annex.
- 3) Partners from Polish humanitarian organization presented an activity reflecting **cultural differences and stereotypes**. The activity proved that people usually consider other cultures and different behaviour trough their own norms and because

of this reason the first impression often is wrong. Description of the activity is attached in annex.

- 4) Intercultura-AFS Portugal presented activity “**Take a step forward**”, during which each member of a group represents people of different social, material, national situation. As a result this activity encourages understanding subjects of discrimination and situation differences. Description of the activity is attached in annex.

Next all activities presented in train-the-trainer seminar were evaluated. Different forms of evaluation were used:

- Evaluating in a target picture; advantages of this method - clearly seen general opinion about activity and ability to evaluate different aspects of one activity; disadvantages - no debriefing and possible “herd instinct”;
- Painting the evaluation pictures; this was an unusual method of evaluation for most seminar participants; it has some threats, because everybody don’t understand equally the interpretation of a picture;
- Evaluation on a line; this method gives an ability to evaluate different aspects of one activity, but also has some treats of an influenced evaluating or “herd instinct”;
- Evaluation with weather, where “sun” means good and “lightning” means bad attitude towards activity.

Partners from Intercultura-AFS Portugal made the conclusions of train-the-trainer seminar emphasizing the importance to prepare detailed description of activities before training, good preparation and debriefing. Also, the evaluation is very important, because analytical critics help to improve every activity.

After work the second half of a day was spent for knowing the old town and history of Lithuanian capital Vilnius better.

Saturday, May 9th

On a last working day the conclusions of the train-the-trainer seminar were made (SWOT analysis), the interactive game was presented by Intercultura-AFS Portugal, results of

project 1st year activities were checked and further organizational project issues discussed.

The following agreements were made:

- Every partner should describe in detail their workshop activity and send to project coordinator (Portugal) until the end of May (an example will be provided by Intercultura-AFS Portugal);
- The first project brochure should be issued during May (the contents were provided to Turkish partner);
- Portuguese partner will provide the technical information about virtual game to Slovakian partners. They will check the possibility, cost and terms of production of the game in two weeks after getting all needed information;
- Virtual game for inclusion was presented in English. As this game will be used for volunteer training seminar in each country, every partner should translate it into its own language. Intercultura-AFS Portugal will send material for translation;
- Every partner has an obligation to provide interim project report to their National Agency till the 30 of June. The report form is provided in each country (National Agencies websites). For the report project coordinator will prepare and send to other partners common information about achieved project results;
- Polish partner will prepare competences leaflet for learners;
- As next partners meeting will be held in Slovakia in December 2009, partners will exchange all information by e-mails and make virtual meetings;
- For the next project period every partner must decide upon its target group for volunteer trainings and train a sample group of volunteers or potential volunteers until October. The analysis of training results shall be provided to project coordinator until next partners meeting in Slovakia.

In the afternoon, after the planned work was finished, partners visited ancient capital of Lithuania Trakai. The third partners' meeting was finished with cultural dinner in a Lithuanian national restaurant.

Next time project partners will meet in Slovakia.