

Reflections on Erasmus+ training courses at ILC Inspired Learning Centre in Cyprus in the school year 2016/17

We would like to reflect on the school year 2016/2017 at ILC Inspired Learning Centre. Between September 2016 and June 2017 our Team organised 12 training courses and we hosted participants from 14 different countries – Poland, Ireland, Finland, Spain, Holland, Luxemburg, Croatia, Latvia, Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden, Hungary and Czech Republic. We had a chance to meet educators, volunteers, administrative staff, counselors and headmasters from adult, higher and school education and engage in an inspiring dialogue about various aspects of education such as effective leadership, using coaching skills, the importance of emotional intelligence in the teaching and learning process, creative thinking, the meaning of wisdom, motivation, inspiration, teamwork and effective training approaches. The participants of our courses reported that they had gained valuable insights and skills that enabled them to be more effective as educators, work better in teams as well as had positive impact on their personal lives. Moreover, some partnerships between different organisations have been formed and new projects have come to existence as a result.

We would like to present highlights from a couple of recent training courses.



Within a KA1 project „Strengthening educator’s soft skills in order to achieve higher quality of education”, 5 educators from a Polish NGO Stowarzyszenie Vesuvio, attended a course „Intelligent Leadership. Bring out the best in yourself and your learners with Enneagram”(23-28/9 2016). They got acquainted with a powerful model, Enneagram, that describes 9 different personality styles. The educators discussed how to effectively communicate with people of different personality styles, what are the implications for group dynamics and motivation and how educators can utilise diversity and see it as enrichment rather than a challenge. Moreover, the participants had a chance to discover their own personality styles, with their strengths and areas of development. Enhanced self-awareness will allow them to use more of their potential, become more effective leaders and find greater

fulfilment at work. Other 4 educators from Stowarzyszenie Vesuvio attended a course „Clarity of Mind for Extraordinary Results” (21-26/5 2017). It was a week rich in insights into how our mind works and how everyone (it includes educators as well as learners, also those from disadvantaged backgrounds) can align him/herself with innate capacity for resiliency, creativity and wellbeing. The educators have explored the place of intuition and inspiration in everyday life, at work and in particular in learning and teaching context. They also gained vital insights into mechanisms of stress and the capacity for wellbeing, clarity and intelligent responsiveness in all circumstances.



Another course that we would like to present today is „More than teaching. Coaching skills in adult education” (9-14/10 2016). The participants of this course came from different organisations - University of Tartu (Estonia), Vilnius Adult Education Centre (Lithuania) and Folkuniversitetet (Sweden) and they were teachers, a lecturer, a headmaster and a career counsellor. The course focused on application on simple coaching skills and tools in the context of one to one work with students, teaching groups and teamwork. The educators experimented with new ways of approaching goals and challenges and had a chance to test new tools on themselves, gaining insights and planning next steps in different areas of their lives and work. One of the participants said „I’ve learnt new useful tools that I can apply at my work but most importantly I’ve understood the underlying philosophy of coaching and how it leads to new way of relating to learners.”



