

Grundtvig Learning Partnership - Public living room - a safe learning space

Newsletter 15: Looking back at Nižná and looking forward to the 2nd year

Dear Friends,

In this Newsletter you will find some impressions of the Mobility which took place from 10th to 13th May on the topic of Family. Even if there were a limited number of partners present it was a very fruitful meeting with interesting discussions. For the outcome of this discussions you will have to wait till the Theme Paper of the topic is ready. (How is the progress on YOUR theme paper..?)

During the discussions we followed an interesting method of work in which the outcomes of the discussions in the different countries were compared at once on their similarities and differences, rather than having presentations per country. This way of working will surely be part of the 'toolbox' that we discuss during the first mobility after summer break, that is dedicated to 'tools & methods'.

Our whole partnership is intended to bring some structure into the processes that are happening in our groups. Discussions in the public living room are shared with partners in other countries and topic by topic combined into theme papers. These are not academic or very big, the essence is that they are genuinely coming forward from our movement. We come to a compilation of our own know-how in our own words, following our own methods of work. This is why the project carries the logo of the GWIA, the Grassroots Women International Academy.

This is also why 'tools & methods' is the only topic we have on the program twice. Directly after the summer it is hosted by the Bavarians when we will have a focus on the lessons extracted from the first year. The end conference of the partnership that will take place in 2015 is hosted by Slovakia. This time, besides of harvesting the total partnership, tools & methods will focus in particular on the major tool developed by the Slovaks, the Academy of Practical Parenthood or APP.

This Academy of Practical Parenthood was developed after the first International Mother Center Conference in 2006, where we exchanged our knowledge on "How do we want to raise our children". Because this is such an interesting method of work, the Slovakian Union of Mother Centers would like to share it in depth with all those who are interested to learn from their experiences.

For that, they will review the possibilities of the new Erasmus plus program that replaces Grundtvig. During the summer months the UMC will try to draft up an initial plan for a project to share their knowledge on the subject. They will inform the network and look for partners directly after '10-10', the International Mother Centers Day on which they have offered to take the lead this year as well. This way we can make a good proposal for the 2015-17 period, before the deadline of February 2015.

IMCD 2014 : ten-ten is coming up, Slovakia takes the lead



Not all of the approximately 1111 Mother Centers around the world take part in this Grundtvig project. But ALL are part of the Mother Center movement, all can be active in **mine**. Because **mine** does not have resources, it depends on activities that do not cost money, that can be organised locally and that can be adapted to the local circumstances and possibilities.

We defined the two main activities that meet that criteria to be: the **Mile for Mothers** in May and the **IMCD** on 10/10. This way there are two **mine** activities each year. JOIN IN and spread the word.

Impressions of Mile for Mothers 2014 in Nižná, Slovakia



The Slovaks planned their mobility such that participants could see how the event was organised and celebrated. Even in a small place with 4000 inhabitants, there were crowds of people who enjoyed a busy program that lasted the whole afternoon. In the whole of the country over **27.000** people participated in this event that was even promoted on national TV

Information panels along the road provided interesting facts about mothers in different parts of the world, motherhood and Mother Centers. This way a fun activity was combined smoothly with a serious message.



PLANNING OF THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The dropbox has the latest version of the planning, which has separate tabs with the first and second project year. We all need to plan better in order to not be overflowed with work at the last moment. And we must all plan better to help our partners with their organising and booking of trips in time. During the first year we all had experiences of being stressed, overwhelmed and disappointed that we want to avoid. That is why we made some BINDING agreements for the second year of the partnership:

25/7/14 DEADLINE for the planning of the subject you host in the second year

In order to not have things overflow you in the last moment, we ask all partners to prepare their topic in advance. This way, organising and translation can be done in advance as well. What you need to do is especially look at your topic and see how, when and where you will host it. The list below gives a general planning and all you need to do is make it specific. The Bavarians have done that. Their topic is planned in September until 13 October with the mobility directly after. They have made that specific by saying WHERE the mobility is (Munich) and gave the dates (arrival on 23/10/14 program is 24,25,26 October). Do NOT plan the mobility more than 1 or at most 2 weeks after the end of the Topic you host. That is to avoid stealing time from the next group. If it does not fit, just do your mobility earlier, during your topic.

You also need to write your questions for debate. At this point you do not need to have an entire newsletter with background information ready, just the questions. **Keep these simple!** The debates should be fun and interesting, not a difficult burden for scholars. The questions you are debating now on caring communities are a nice example, they are not too many and not too difficult. Just a nice start for opening discussion. Think of what is important to you, how you want to steer the debate.

29/8/14 DEADLINE for the organising of the project in your country in the second year

Directly after everybody has handed in their planning information (questions, where & when of mobility) you get an overview of this for all 6 topics of the second year. This you use to organise the next year. Subdivide the topics and make sure at least six people in your group or network take responsibility. If they all have one topic to lead the burden of work is spread. This way you have a sort of 'local host' for the topic, somebody who organises the discussions, gathers the outcomes and reports back to the host. It is logical that this person is the first in line to go on a mobility. Without needing to mention names or booking tickets yet (but you may of course) you need to finalise this end of August. On 29/8/14 is the deadline of telling me and/or the topic host with how many people you will participate in the mobility and who will be the local contact persons for this topic. At that day you also should have informed your groups or network about the second year of the project so they can organise the discussions locally.

Deadlines really mean deadlines. Not complying with these agreements can ultimately imply that the partners do not discuss your topic or that you do not get mobility certificates.

Remember that during the summer you also need to report to your National Agency and finalise your output for the first year -theme paper on your topic- if you have not done so yet.

1/9/14 Start of the second year of the partnership

We start the second year of the partnership in September, because in some countries the school vacations are late. Of course you can organise things locally to begin more early and have more time. That is why we arrange things beforehand: so that everybody has the flexibility to adjust to local circumstances and possibilities. We want the project to be an enrichment of what is happening in your groups already. We have 6 topics in 9 months. All topics run for at least 6 weeks or sometimes more to allow for holidays.

Information available and information still required

Topic 12) Tools and methods to set up safety in our group

2014 week 36 - 41

HOST: DM: Germany "Munich" Bavarian MC network

Debate week 36-41 : 01 September - 12 October 2014

Mobility Where: Munich, Germany

When: arrival 23/10/14 program: 24,25,26 oct

Information required by 25/7/2014:

Discussion questions

Topic 4) Dealing with the health care system

2014 week 42 - 47

HOST: PL: Poland - Mamy Czas

Debate week 42-47 : 13 October - 23 November 2014

Mobility: Where: Warsaw (to be confirmed)

When: week 47, 48 or 49 2014

Information required by 25/7/2014:

Discussion questions, dates of mobility

Topic 10) Inclusion, exclusion, discrimination

2014 week 48-2015 week 2

HOST: DS: Germany- "Stuttgart" -Muetterforum

Debate week 48 - week 2 of 2015 = 24 November 2014 till 11 January 2015

Mobility: Where: Freiburg (to be confirmed)

When: week 2, 3 or 4 2015

Information required by 25/7/2014:

Discussion questions, dates & place of mobility

Topic 11) Economic safety

2015 week 3 - 9

HOST: AT: Austria Dachverband independent MC's

Debate week 3-9 = 12 January-28 February 2015

Mobility: Where: Innsbruck (to be confirmed)

When: week 9,10 or 11 of 2015

Information required by 25/7/2014:

Discussion questions, dates & place of mobility

Topic 9) Partnerships on how to create safety in local community

2015 week 10 - 16

HOST: TR: Turkey, International Children's Center ICC

Debate: week 10-16 = 2 March - 19 April 2015

Mobility: Where: Gaziantep (to be confirmed)

When: week 16, 17 or 18 of 2015

Information required by 25/7/2014:

Discussion questions, dates & place of mobility

Topic 12) Tools and methods to set up safety in our group

2015 week 17 - 23

HOST: SK: Slovakian MC network UMC

Debate 20 April - 7 June 2015

Mobility: Where: again in Nižná??

When: week 23, 24 or 25 of 2015

Information required by 25/7/2014:

Discussion questions, dates and place of mobility