



INSTALL NEWSLETTER

INSTALL

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Coordination meeting in Bucharest

The INSTALL IV International meeting was held in Bucharest on February 4th – 5th 2013. Representatives from SINAPSI (Italy), University of Seville (Spain), National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (Romania) and the National University of Ireland Maynooth attended the meeting. It was the last meeting before the closing Meeting in March 2014.

The participants discussed the current stage of the project and focused on future activities. The main topics approached were: 1) Organization of the Partners’ tasks to draw up the Progress Report; 2) Fine-tuning of the *Operational Manual* (OM) and *Guidelines for the Narrative Group Trainers*, the *Toolkit for Students* (TS), the *Test & Validation* tools; 3) Financial aspects; 4) Redistribution of the Partners’ activities as a consequence of the withdrawal of the Aarhus University (AU); 5) Improvement of the Dissemination and Exploitation activities.

Partners provided feedback on the first round of the NMP trainings, concluding that “it is important to distinguish between emotional and cognitive aspects that are always connected in the educational process”. Similarly, it was stated that exporting the model to professors who are not psychologists might be an issue. Furthermore, the Partners discussed and agreed on various aspects of enhancing the *Operational Manual* and *Toolkit for Students*.

Students who participated in the first round of the NMP in Romania were also invited and they provided useful insights regarding the personal experiences during the training, as well as the methodology as such.

- *The final conference of the project was agreed on March 2014*

Starting of the second round of NMP trainings

For the second round of the NMP trainings, each Partner will select students by the end of March 2013. The selection criteria employed for sampling the students in this second round are: second or third year students or students who are repeating a year, students who are in delay with passing exams, first generation students or students who are working (part time/full time), students with a low income or students over 25 years old. The second round of NMP will be delivered in each partner university by 31st May.

As for the delivery as such, the Consortium agreed to add a seventh module in the second round of the NMP, aimed at collecting the students’ feedback (that is the post-test evaluation), as well as providing them with the trainers’ feedback. Similarly, the certificates awarding could also be part of this additional meeting.

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What next? Outlook

Administering the follow up form to students who participated in the first round of NMP

As part of the monitoring, phase a follow up form will be administered to students who participated in the first round of NMP, in the months 15-20 of the project. These tools are aimed at assessing students' attitude towards study and their participation in the university life after finalizing the NMP trainings.

Along with the follow up forms, this sub-stage of the Test and Validation work package also includes monitoring the academic performance of the trainees by detecting the outcome indicators previously identified, such as: university credits, number of exams made, exam grades and average.

The purpose is to identify the efficiency of the project with reference to the impact of the training on student academic performance.

Moreover, after this monitoring stage, each partner shall issue a confidential report (month 20) with the output and outcome results obtained from each training path.

Fine tuning of the Operational Manual and Student Toolkit

The Consortium agreed on a series of practical suggestions to be introduced in the *Operational Manual*: instructions on the board, “learning contract” about rules to be respected during the sessions, layout to be improved.

Furthermore, the Consortium also agreed on other aspects: criteria will be enlarged, so that students attending the II and III year and those repeating a year will be eligible. A more focused theoretical framework will be introduced and presented in a more accessible way. Similarly, a new form will be added - filled in by trainers with problems/solutions/recommendations regarding the delivery of the NMP.

As for the *Toolkit for Students*, the changes agreed upon were: adding a short introduction, more accurately highlighting the transcultural aspects, revising some linguistic aspect. Similarly, the bodily module will be clearer. Also, the reflectivity form will be modified. Special attention will be paid to heteronormativity. The follow up form will be fine-tuned. About 10% of the students enrolled will be interviewed and their testimonials will be recorded and used for dissemination.

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