

Dear reader,

We present to you the final newsletter of the Europe 4 All project – E4A, funded by the EU Lifelong Learning Program. Nearing the end of our project, the E4A Integration Ladder is in its final stage of development: the tool has been delivered in 7 languages and has been successfully tested by the target groups within the partner countries. In this newsletter you can find a description of our progress made so far and the piloting experiences of some of our partners. This newsletter has appeared twice during the time of the project. We hope it will be useful and informative for your organisation.

The Europe 4 All project consortium

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Partnership

The Europe 4 All project is being realised by a broad group of European expert partners.

Albeda College (NL)



VUC Vestegnen (DK)



MJK Instituutti (FL)



ADPI (FR)



KEK Kykladon (GR)



Mater (IT)



Interconnect (NL)



Greek language learning program for unemployed immigrants – refugees

In October 2009, The Unified Vocational Training Centre of Cyclades at Hermoupolis (Syros – Greece) has implemented the: “Greek language learning program for unemployed immigrants refugees”. This 300 hour program is addressed to 20 unemployed refugees-immigrants of over 16 years old and is set up especially for unemployed refugees, returnees and immigrants for whom insufficient knowledge of the Greek language is impeding their social integration. The E4A Integration Ladder will form an important assessment and intake tool for each of the participants.

The main objective of the program is: to learn / improve knowledge of the Greek language, both in an active and passive way. After this course participants are expected to be able to function effectively in a variety of general language situations. The language skills developed in this program may relate to social contacts, exchanging information, expressing opinions, feelings and emotions, problem solving communication etc.

Piloting in France

In Paris the ADPI has finished the evaluation phase of the E4A Integration Ladder: 45 migrants on 3 different linguistic levels (A1, B1 & B2) have tested the tool.

The first E4A tool- test took place in September 2009 with 40 young migrants, ranging from 18 to 26 years old, from Asia, Africa and South America. Some have been in France for less than a year, others for 2 to 3 years. All follow a 10 month course that includes French courses (± 500 hrs.) and courses for developing a professional project. All these young people are engaged in a process of social and professional integration. In spite of difficulties raised by unknown words in the E4A tool, all participants were very satisfied to have taken part in the pilot, to have been confronted with a higher level of French and to have deliberated on the topics broached by the tool.

Another test, with a smaller group of 5 adult migrants from Africa and Asia, was scheduled for October 2009. Their training course extends over 8 months and is composed of French courses (more than 250 hours) and a training part, dealing with the job of ‘cleaner’ (± 500 hrs). These participants, aged 40 – 50 years, have on average spent the last 3 years in France. All have little working experience in France. The test results of this group forms an interesting balance to the answers of the younger participants.



The E4A tool-evaluation has been satisfying for both participants and teachers/trainers. The participants were especially taken in by the presentation and were interested and moved by the questions asked. Indeed, some questions were found private and weren't deemed directly useful for integration, while others made them aware of certain important aspects of integration. For the teachers/trainers it was an opportunity to work side by side with the students in realizing an original project.

Duration

The project has started in October 2007 and will end in December 2009.

Important links

Lifelong Learning agency:
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

Vocational Research Institute (contract-partner):
www.vri-info.nl



Naples Seminar

While mount Vesuvio was hidden behind a thin veil of fog most of the time, the meeting in Naples progressed smoothly. The E4A Integration Ladder, to secure better integration in the partner countries, had to be ready for a piloting period just after the summer holidays of 2009. The seminar was spent working on details of the English version of the tool.

The E4A tool development took a little longer than expected. Therefore the partnership has asked the European Commission for a three month prolongation of the project, which was granted. The final conference will be held in Rotterdam on Friday, November 6th. The conference will be attended by partners, accompanied by a varying number of stakeholders, colleagues, teachers and students.

Between September and the conference the pilot phase will have resulted in quite a large number of migrants from most of the world testing the 6 national versions of the integration tool. They will have done this in the setting of the partner school or in one or more of the stakeholder establishments, schools or any other kind of institution that comes into contact with migrants. The test persons may either be absolutely new to the country or have already lived in new country for years. All of them will be asked to define strengths and weaknesses in the tool. A final version of the tool will be accessible right after the final conference.

Important dates

E4A Final Conference
November 6, 2009

Location:
Hotel New York
Koninginnenhoofd 1
Rotterdam (NL)

Time: 12:00 – 17:00
Admission: Free

Contact & Info

The E4A Integration Ladder will be available in 7 languages: English, Dutch, Danish, Finnish, French, Greek and Italian.

A full version of this E4A tool is available at our website:
www.integration-plaza.eu

For more information contact
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Piloting the E4A Integration Ladder in Rotterdam

In September 2009, Albeda College started the first pilot of the E4A Integration Ladder. The group consisted of 12 women with an average age of 30 years old. Coming from Pakistan, Cape Verde, Turkey, Morocco, China and Romania, they have been in the Netherlands from 3 up to 20 years.

After a short explanation they started with the test. Their language level was between A2 and B1. The test group sometimes had some trouble understanding less frequent words like “standard language” and “dialect”. Some of them also asked questions on how to interpret certain texts, questions and answers. And of course reality is always more complex than foreseen: as a result of this pilot some questions in the tool have been adjusted



The students needed about 45-75 minutes to complete the test. It was difficult for them to interpret the scores by themselves. But after some explanation from the trainer most of them recognized themselves in the score fully.

Next to this, the scores also gave the teacher a clear insight in the group as a whole: mostly women with an intermediate level of Dutch (A2-B1), an average education, working in small – not too well paid – jobs or living on social benefits. Striking – for almost all women, except one – was the lack of a Dutch social network or the participation in organized social contact contacts. Nevertheless, most of them felt at home in the Netherlands and comfortable with Dutch standards and values, while at the same time still having strong ties with their country of origin.

In October 2009 the piloting at Albeda College has continued with different groups of migrants.



Education and Culture
Lifelong learning programme

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