

REINFORCING COMMUNICATION WITHIN 'GRUNDTVIG' LEARNING PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK BY MEANS OF ICT

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Abstract

Towards the goal of supporting the European citizens' right to learn in all environments, the European Commission has recognized that "nowadays lifelong learning is key to both jobs and growth and the participation of everyone in society" (European Commission-Education & Training, 2009:1). This is precisely the reason why it has integrated its varied educational and training initiatives under a single umbrella, namely the Lifelong Learning Program (LLL) whose goal is to "enable individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe".

To the accomplishment of the previously stated aim, the European Union has launched, among other actions, the Grundtvig program. More specifically, "the Grundtvig program focuses on the teaching and study needs of those immersed in Adult Education and alternative education streams, as well as the institutions and organizations delivering these services" (European Commission-Education-Practical Learning..., 2009:1). To further illustrate that, it aims at providing adult learners with ways to improve their knowledge and skills, keeping them mentally fit and potentially more employable.

The aforementioned Grundtvig Action, as part of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Program to boost European finance as well as contribute to promoting an integrated social model, includes such activities as, among others, Grundtvig Learning Partnerships. The latter, according to the European Commission (2009:1), constitute "the framework for small-scale cooperation activities between organizations working in the field of Adult Education in the broadest sense".

In light of the above context, a lot depends on our right and possibility to learn since the complexity of our world relies largely on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and knowledge work. To further elaborate on this notion, this paper describes and evaluates an ICT-based lesson which is considered to boost the learners' communicative and linguistic competence in the framework of a regional Second Chance School. The particular English workshop has been organized in the context of a learning partnership '**Green Terraces across Europe**', is titled '*Nice to Meet You*' and focuses on developing the learners' speaking skill with particular emphasis on their first contacts with the European partners visiting Greece- namely Romanian, Italian, Polish, Bulgarian, French.

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