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A European Lifelong Learning Academy

An education offensive for people with disabilities powered by



& partners

Welcome to the third newsletter of the ELLA project (European Lifelong Learning Academy) designed to keep you informed about latest experiences of the members.

Besides normal work within the subprojects there was The ELLA Inclusion Congress in November.

Enjoy reading!

Project ELLA website: www.ella-ella.eu/



Group photo from the Inclusion Congress in Vienna (read below)

ELLA - Inclusion Congress „United for inclusive education: Moving beyond traditional learning”

The international ELLA–Inclusion Congress, organized by the IB-Behindertenhilfe (IBB), Germany and the Österreichische Jungarbeiterbewegung (ÖJAB), Austria, took place on 12 November 2015 in Vienna, Austria. The theme of the ELLA Inclusion Congress was „United for inclusive education: Moving beyond traditional learning”. The Inclusion Congress was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Austria Dr. Heinz Fischer.

The congress brought together over 160 participants from 12 countries, including the candidates to EU membership Serbia and Turkey as well as Israel as a third country.

The congress venue was a perfect mixture of state-of-the-art congress facilities

and beautiful palm-house-style Orangerie, which offered a relaxing garden-like atmosphere overlooking the park. This provided great opportunity for a broad exchange of views between project partners, people with disabilities, companies, political representations, social organizations, adult education centers, universities, schools and teachers, committed to improving the social situation of people with disabilities.

The congress began with welcoming addresses from Dr. Monika Schüssler, Managing Director of ÖJAB and Michael Thiele, Managing Director of IBB. Afterwards, Kurt Nekula, MAS, The Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Robert Bechina, Austrian Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and Mag. Billy Batware, Regional Academy on the United Nations gave their keynote lectures. In their informative and inspiring speeches they emphasized the importance of the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. As part of the scheduled programme, congress participants were able to choose between different workshops/presentations in three workshops parallel sessions. These were held in the stunning baroque castle Miller Aichholz, under the portraits of the famous Emperor Franz Joseph and Empress Elisabeth (Sissi). In order to ensure the full inclusion of people with disabilities, they were not only congress participants but also workshop's leaders and speakers.

The congress closed with a round-table discussion with a diverse group of speakers who talked about the inclusion of people with disabilities from a political point of view (Rudolf Hundstorfer, Minister of Social Affairs, Labour and Consumer Protection), from a business perspective (Mag. Bettina Glatz-Kremsner, Austrian Lotteries, Mag. Ursula Simacek, SIMACEK Facility Management Group) and from a NGO viewpoint (Michael Thiele, IB-Behindertenhilfe). Moreover, round-table's special guests were also Mag. Michael Sicher, MSc (CEOs on Wheels) and young Nico Langmann, World-Class Wheelchair Tennis Player who disclosed their views of the situation, their own opinions and experiences.

Many fruitful exchanges and positive messages related to this topic, friendly atmosphere, and various workshop sessions in a highly cultural and historic setting made the ELLA-Inclusion Congress an amazing event.

More information about the congress including a link to the photos can be found on the BPI of ÖJAB website <http://www.bpi-akademie.eu/en/congress>.

Adriana Bassani

ELLA partner, ÖJAB, Vienna, Austria

(adriana.bassani@oejab.at)



Milica Stojanovic from Serbia relaxing during coffee break



Participants from Israel enjoying the afternoon sun outside the Miller-Aichholz Castle, site of the congress workshops' parallel sessions.



Congress panelists

Along with the congress the partners of ELLA met in a working session in order to evaluate the project and its work packages, to inform the partners about the ongoing processes in the different work packages and to discuss the continuation of ELLA after the project duration. The question of future funding and sustainability of the ELLA project and its results were also topic in this working session, ideas for the future designs of adult education models for people with disabilities have been developed.

New Leaders

Work Package 9

PSOUU Gdańsk, Poland

Medis 5, Sweden



In the "New Leaders" work package, persons with disabilities at Medis 5 and PSOUU met in three workshops in Gdansk and Stockholm. The main purpose was to train them on how to be a leader.

In October they met in the workshop in Gdansk. It was the last meeting of "New Leaders." During the week, Medis 5 attended five workshops and a guided tour held by people with disabilities at PSOUU.

As "New Leaders," we have been working a lot with participation, trial and error, and evaluations. It's also very important and stimulating to have new relations among people with disabilities. We realized that, thanks to the long-term cooperation, some of our participants took big steps in English.

It was much bigger than we thought for the people with disabilities to work slowly but surely towards the title "leader." We think we can compare it with earning a drivers license. You become an equal member of society and can do things everyone else can do.

Marita Jonols, Medis 5

Jarosław Marciszewski, PSOUU Gdańsk



Short films from the October workshop of New Leaders in Gdansk available at <http://www.ella-ella.eu>



*11-14 November there was the big ELLA Congress in Vienna.
The weather was wonderful, and part of the congress was in a beautiful castle. Sebastian Włodarek and Erik Nordlund gave a workshop in music and theatre for the participants of the congress. It was a grand finale of our subproject "New Leaders."*

“Hello all You beautiful women in the audience. My name is Anders Wieslander and I’m sorry to tell You, I am already married.”

This is how Anders Wieslander started the presentation at a national conference in Gdansk 21 – 22, October 2015 arranged by Katarzyna Świeczkowska, at PSOUU.

Medis 5 was invited as the only international guest.

During 45 minutes we presented some information about Swedish legislation concerning people with disabilities, but above all we presented The ELLA project and the Work package New Leaders.

It was, Mats Eriksson, Anders Wieslander and Marita Jonols and an excellent Polish translator who did the presentation and showed films from the ELLA project.

Private Life Concepts

Work Package 8

Lindeparken, Sweden

Kindercentra De Roef, Netherlands

Jaunuolių dienų centras, Lithuania

WORKSHOPS ON PRIVATE LIFE CONCEPTS

In two school classes in Lindeparkens gymnasiesörskola we discussed and investigated this question:

Do all people have the same right to be in love?

How we answered:

-We started with a discussion in our own group, made a voting procedure by the show of hands (options: yes, no, I don't know), and asked ourselves WHY do we think like we think?

-We talked about how a reporter works by asking questions, about asking questions as a way to get answers, about how to present ourselves, about how to ask questions in a nice manner and about choosing who we want to interview.

-The classes were divided into smaller groups, which prepared for the interviews. Each group came up with additional questions, went off to ask these questions and came back with this answer:

YES, OF COURSE, everybody has the right to fall and be in love.

Outcome:

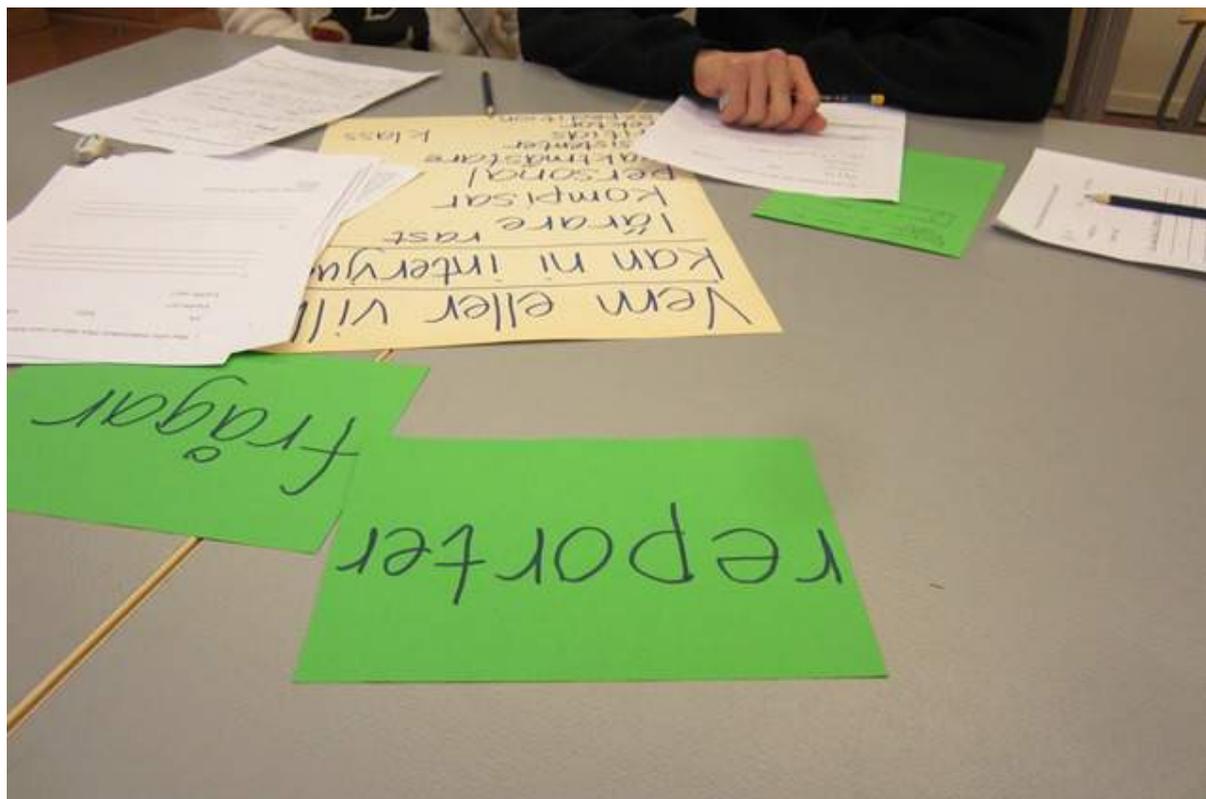
-great discussions in which the question WHY took us deeper into the question

-practising to articulate your own questions and learning by listening to others

-practicing the art of asking questions

Possible follow up:

-preparing a voting place where you anonymously vote by hanging paper in different colours representing "yes", "no" and "don't know" in a voting tree



Video from the workshop "Where do you plan to live if you get married?" held in Lithuania.

Take part in the game
20 REASONS TO SMILE
invented by the Lithuanian partner:
<http://ella-project-smile.blogspot.lt/>



Elodie Bink from Kindercentra De Roef, Netherlands inviting people to join a discussion forum to discuss actual topics.

Check more news from
the "Private Life Concepts"
subproject on the blog:
<http://ella-project.blogspot.com.tr/>

United in Diversity, Serbia



Watch the video from SABOR, the event held from 23-28th of June in Niš, Serbia. Participants from 5 countries spent time discovering cultural diversity and new ways of enjoying their leisure time.

For more information please read
the article below:



SABOR = Save Always Believe On Recreation!

SABOR Meeting took place in Nis, Serbia, from June 23rd to June 28th, 2015., in frame of ELLA project. Five partner organizations from five different countries took part on this event: "ESTIA" (P8), from Greece, "Lindeparkensgymnasieskolan" (P15), from Sweden, "Jaunuoliu dienos centras" (P10), Lithuania, "CARAVAN 2000 FRANCE" (P4), from France, "UNITED IN DIVERSITY" (P14), from Serbia – host.

During five days all participants had various activities with specific goals, lifelong learning and sharing good practice. All activities helped them to get to know each other better and to find out something new about people from different countries, their way of living, their culture, to learn on nonformal way how to prepare Swedish meatballs, or Tzatziki sauce from Greece. By riding a motorbike with 30 bikers through whole city, they learned on nonformal way about Nis and about its history from Romanian time till now. Besides nonformal learning this was a chance to try new things, to test courage, and to enjoy landscape of this beautiful city. Expressing their selves' on their own way were goals of art activity, decoupage, and also of different dance activities. World café was a possibility for all to present national snacks, food and beverages, and also to try same from different countries. One participant from each organisation had the chance to represent his own country and how he sees it. In the frame of the workshop-presentation-discussion - *Social Inclusion through my eyes* small power-point-presentations were shown by each partner country on the theme "What my country does for me and what makes me happy". This was a chance to stand up and to give an opinion about what matters, what are the important things for lifelong learning. This was the chance to show everyone that boundaries exist only in our minds, through nonformal learning workshop. For this workshop there were special guests, The Deputy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Dr Dusan Milisavljevic, Consul of the Republic of Bulgaria in Serbia Mr. Atanas Krstin, President of the Municipality Palilula Mr. Boban Dzunic, Representatives of Ministry of Education. Good practice examples were presented every day for each partner organization, like climbing from Greek participants, or Wall with themes from participants from France, or "Cookie café" from United in Diversity. Special pleasure for everybody was chance to participate on "Cat walk fashion show" side by side with real models, and with treatment like theirs before runway (make-up artists, hair styles, fashion creators...).

SABOR in numbers: 5 organizations from 5 countries

31 PWD participants

Between 18 and 66 years old

5 days re-creation and leisure time

23 workshops plus many energizing activities

7 honored guests

11 employees of involved organizations

23 volunteers from "United in Diversity"

Total: 72 participants!

Ivana Stajkovic, United in Diversity

Transition

Work Package 14

AKIM Jerusalem, Israel

The Israeli partner AKIM Jerusalem has organised in frame of ELLA Project the Training Apartment program.

This program consists of 15 weekly meetings, including overnights. It was designed for groups of six participants at a time. The main aims of the program are to give the participants and their families a sense of what "out-of-family-home living" is all about and to offer tools to improve the participants' independence. The participants arrive at the apartment after their morning activity

(school or work), once a week, for a series of activities that are typical for sheltered, community based living. The process that the participants undergo in the apartment facilitates their growth and offers many practical insights about what their future might look like.

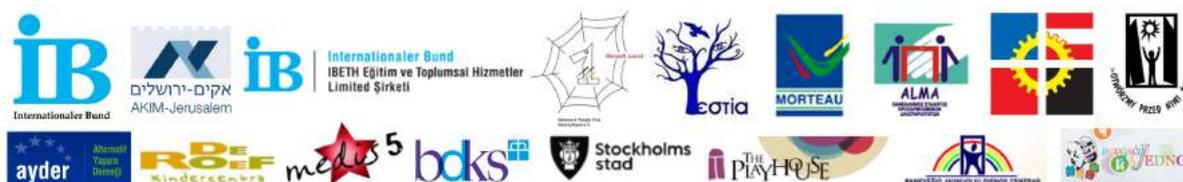
Fifteen program meetings offer each participant and his/her family an excellent opportunity to consider the possibility of moving to an "out-of-family-home placement". The program facilitates the departure from the family home both for the participants and for their families. Participation in the Training Apartment program offers the participants an opportunity to experience living in a group as equals, receiving support in learning activities for daily living, something which is not always encouraged in their family homes.

Dinah Kestenbaum, AKIM Jerusalem

News from the project team

The German project team held their last meeting in 2015 in Oberursel to pass in review the international congress in Vienna (11. – 14.11.2015) as well as to prepare for the events and milestones going forward in 2016. The current state of all the Implementation Work Packages were discussed and assignments were allocated in preparation for the "Exploitation of Results", scheduled to take place in April 2016 in Stockholm.

Dear Partners, please remember to send as many templates for Good Practice examples of leisure time activities for people with disabilities as possible to Tommy Papp tommy_papp@yahoo.com or Vasilis Kasimatis mirtok@yahoo.com until Feb 5th 2016. Thank you for your assistance!



More information about the ELLA project and its members:

www.ella-ella.eu and facebook.com/EllaLearningProject

The next and last newsletter during the project duration will be published in October 2016, so please

Dear Partners send your information and reports until the **end of September 2016 to**

m.a.kochanowska@gmail.com



Lifelong
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