

TIPS NEWSLETTER September 2008

The Newsletter Issue 3 is part of the informative material concerning the aims and activities of the TIPS project and intends to disseminate and promote the main project outcomes.

Studies and Research activities and products

During the months of July and August the project team was involved in the accomplishment of various activities. One significant example was when Iriv, the Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering, and FOR.COM delivered the reports on the consultation made among cultural mediators that took place during May and June 2008 in France and Italy. This was a quite informative and useful basis, especially for our future trainees, considering that it was the very first consultation ever conducted in this brand new profession.

Iriv has also continued working on the elaboration and refinement of the first framework of the training programme. This proposed training course includes 17 different modules integrating the key issues answering a training needs (French consultation and national meeting of 1st of July) : professional framework of cultural mediation ; skills and competences to be developed to be a cultural mediator ; problems requiring mediation between migrants and institutions in key sectors such as education, social housing, employment, health, access to rights ; problems raised by specific problems such as youngsters, women and seniors.

The "added value" of the TIPS course in the first framework of the training programme consists of various potentialities offered by the three integrated platforms. The partnerships are currently designing and building the final framework of the training programme that will ultimately merge the cultural mediators' training needs with the specific capabilities of the platforms. This structure will guarantee the flexibility of the distance learning modality and student autonomy in choosing their own personal training path. The didactic contents (learning objects) will benefit the student by offering an "on demand" modality. This allows the student to customize his or her learning experience, by choosing to learn or accesses specific information influenced by and based on his or her own background, interests, job, time, and environment. This means that the partnerships will be able to design a course (in terms of quality and quantity dimension) that is different from the "traditional in-presence modality", thus providing more interactivity, multimediality, and personalisation. These considerations arise from the concept of the "ratio" taken from the Leonardo da Vinci project which focuses on innovative methodology; where contents are used to demonstrate the efficacy of the methodology.

In addition, Iriv has selected and translated the phrase book into French. The phrase book works as a significant tool that offers support by providing important translated phrases and expressions for specific situations of linguistic mediation. In this case, the cultural mediator can choose a language of origin (start) and a language to translate phrases into (end). The different phrases are divided into distinct situations pertaining to cultural mediation work (for example: at the hospital, at the airport, at school, etc.)



Design learning tools and course activities

FOR.COM organised a meeting with Gruppo Pragma in order to plan future technical activities. This meeting presented an important opportunity to discuss several critical project situations, as well as determine which results, tools and documents will be prepared to be shared with the partners at the meeting in Graz, Austria. During this meeting the following topics were addressed and discussed:

- a. The different aspects of Mobile learning such as; the list of the specific mobile phone models required for the programme and the importance of verifying the availability of a mobile network in each country (UMTS, GPRS, both,).
- b. Issues relating to TV learning such as; the concern that since the experimentation via TV platform requires a TV + Set Top Box for IP TV + ADSL connection, this could create a problem because many users might not have access to this kind of equipment. Therefore, the solution would be to organise one or more equipped centres in each country (providing the required equipment: TV, STB and ADSL) in order to make the TV Learning Objects (course contents) available to everyone. At the same time, these centres will serve as a meeting point for discussion and comparison among students.

Dissemination and Promotion activities

Based on the feedbacks collected by the Italian Cultural Mediators at Rome's national event on June 27th, 2008, FOR.COM has decided to activate a forum on the website. The forum proposes some important arguments in order to promote discussions about cultural mediation.

TIPS Brochure: The final editing and compilation stages of the project brochure have been completed in the following countries; Austria, Greece and Poland. The brochure is featured in the five different languages of the project partners and is now available to download from the website www.forcom.it/tipsproject under the **Communication** section.

TIPS Website: The Greek translation of the website has been realized by the Hellenic Open University. The TIPS website is a promotional tool available to each partner where they are able to add news, information and communication concerning the national activities or events regarding the main topics of the TIPS project, etc.

A promotional article concerning TIPS has been published in the issue 01 of "Science&Technologie". The review engages, spreads and promotes the best practices in the field of science and technology and identifies the ideas that could herald the next big breakthrough.



For the consultation made in May and June, iriv has built a data bank of stakeholders in the field of migration and cultural mediation in France. It comprehends an average of 300 contacts, mainly in Ile de France for the associations. It is including: national contacts in the field of migration (Ministry for Migration, Integration, National Identity and Sustainable Development, ACSE, HALDE), associations, local authorities, training institutes in the field of social work, associations.

The TIPS Newsletter together with the TIPS leaflet have been sent to these French contacts. Informal meetings have been organised with training bodies (Unifformation), General Council (Val de Marne), City Hall (Bobigny...) to present them the issues of the TIPS project.

On a European level, Iriv has also sent the Newsletter to its contacts in the field of Migration (a network of 17 different countries) with a special focus on its Austrian colleagues with whom Iriv has been working since 1998 in several European projects and delivered a Seminar on Citizenship at the University of Vienna in Spring 2007 (students in the field of social work).

Iriv has also presented the TIPS project in Iriv's news (on its website : www.iriv.net) and Benedicte Halba has written an article mentioning the TIPS in Iriv's Newsletter (www.benevolat.net) sent to 3000 subscribers in France and French speaking countries (Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland...)

Organization of the Graz Transnational Meeting

FOR.COM is currently working on the guidelines that will be delivered to and shared with all the partnerships at the meeting in Graz, Austria next month. The guidelines concern the method to produce the learning contents and storyboards for the production of the different Learning Objects. A Learning Object is a resource, usually digital and web-based, that can be used and re-used to support learning. Learning objects offer a new conceptualization of the learning process that provides smaller, self-contained, re-usable units of learning. The key aspects include the use of metadata, the design that raise issues of portability, and the object's relation to a broader learning management system.

The 1st mid-term didactic plenary meeting will take place on October 2nd and 3rd, 2008 in Graz, Austria.

The objectives of this transnational meeting are:

- share and discuss with partners the results and documents of the projects that have been realized up to date
- strategically plan and organize the following activities, deadlines and documents
- determine and resolve any urgencies relevant to management and administration

The third issue of the periodical TIPS Newsletter will be online in September 2008.

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