

TIPS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

Welcome to the first TIPS project newsletter. The Newsletter Issue 1 is part of the informative material concerning the aims and activities of the project and it intends to disseminate and promote the main project outcomes.

TIPS aims and objectives

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have declared 2008 as the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. In this framework the cultural mediators have come to play a key role in the social integration process of immigrants. The cultural mediators are involved in all welcoming services for immigrants, refugees and also victims of human traffic. The social workers need updated and modern training, especially exploitable in everyday job activities. In order to address this request and offer an answer to the cultural mediators training needs, TIPS project aims at realizing an innovative pilot training course based on T-learning methodology merging together TV-learning, E-learning and M-learning solution.

TIPS target groups

The target groups which will be involved in the experimentation of innovative pilot training course are:

- Potential cultural mediators
- Professional cultural mediators
- Social Workers

TIPS methodology and tools

TIPS system consists of the integration of three tools (triple platform): TV-learning platform, E-learning platform, and M-learning portal. The use of the three tools provides effective didactic support whenever and wherever needed, offering flexible and personalized training paths. Different Learning Objects will be produced and tailored for each training tool. Lifelong Learning Programme, through the TIPS project, can effectively support and address cultural mediators' training needs.

TIPS phases

In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, TIPS project realizes the following phases:

- ⇒ Management
- ⇒ Studies and Research
- ⇒ Preparation and Design Of Educational Products
- ⇒ Promotion and Awareness
- ⇒ Quality and Evaluation
- ⇒ Dissemination
- ⇒ Exploitation

TIPS activity already done

The TIPS project started officially on 6 December 2008 with TIPS Project's kick-off meeting. The event took place at Università Telematica "Guglielmo Marconi" in Rome with the participation of all partners.

Meeting agenda:

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Partnership presentations
- TIPS project presentation: aims, phases and activities, main deadlines
- EACEA evaluation remarks presentation and suggestion from launch meeting in Brussels
- Introduction of dedicated teams foreseen in the project and Teams members appointment by each partner
- TIPS project promotion tools and materials introduction
- Suggestions and commitments for next meeting
- Financial and administrative rules: partners commitments and main deadlines
- The contract between the contractor and the Partner
- Technological architecture and methodological approach

The kick-off meeting has been an important opportunity to know and share the know-how and expertise of participants. Moreover during the kick-off meeting the partnership took the main decisions concerning the management strategy of the project.

Subsequently to the event the partnership started up some project operative activities. In December 2008 began the “studies and research” phase coordinated by Iriv; a French Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering. The partners have realized a first report, concerning an extended and compared research on immigration in each of the 5 countries. In particular the national reports include the following arguments:

- ❖ History of migration in each country
- ❖ Public policy in the field of immigration
- ❖ Statistics
- ❖ Key actors of immigration and integration
- ❖ Bibliography

The partners involved in the Studies and Research phase are: Iriv (leader, France), Auxilium (Austria), HOU (Greece), FOR.COM (Italy) , Tischner European University (Poland).

The next step of the Studies and Research phase will concern a report collecting the main profiles of cultural mediators in each partnership country – qualifications required – training proposed.

In March 2008 the project web site implementation was concluded. Thus far web site (English version) is online at the following address: www.forcom.it/tipsproject.



By the end of April the web site translated into the partnership languages (Italian, French, Polish and Greek) should be online. The TIPS web site is composed by a public area, a private area and the e-learning platform access area. In the public area there are sections concerning the description of the project, a brief presentation of the LLP and a description of the partners together with a link to their web sites, a description of the activities, a news and events section, where on line a four-months newsletter is available. On the other hand the private area supports communication and sharing documents among the partners. Thus far the e-learning area is not available online and coherently with TIPS Planning and timing it will be designed by the contribution of Gruppo Pragma's project team and it will be ready before the end of 2008.

Some other important project activities and outputs realized by the partnership during the beginning of 2008 are:

- a detail management planning, that includes the task and the timing for the delivery of each project outcome;

- contracts between the applicant and the partners;
- a quality and evaluation plan;
- a dissemination plan and some promotional project tools;
- informative materials on project aims and partners, brochures and posters. By the end of April the graphic team will work out the brochure layout and the contents.

A promotional article concerning TIPS has been published on the March issue of "The Parliament Magazine", the leading publication for all those interested in the work of the European Parliament.



TIPS Project: the thousand and one aspects of integration

TIPS "T-learning to Improve Professional Skills for intercultural dialogue" is a two-year multilateral project co-funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme aimed at cultural mediators and would be cultural mediators. TIPS intends to experiment a pilot course focusing on integration and mediation topics and delivered through an integrated system mixing e-learning, m-learning and tv-learning. The TIPS multilateral partnership is headed by the Italian Interuniversity Consortium FOR.COM, and includes six organisations from five European countries (Italy, France, Austria, Poland and Greece) ensuring the achievement of the project's scientific and technological objectives.

In the framework of the TIPS project, the concept of integration is a key-motiv which concerns social context, course subjects, methodology and technology.

Coherently with the initiative by European Union designating the 2008 as the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue which aims at promoting intercultural dialogue as a process to deal with complex cultural environments and to benefit from a diverse and dynamic society, TIPS course will address the cultural mediators' training needs boosting their knowledge and expertise to guide immigrants with their integration in the receiving country.

The TIPS beneficiaries will benefit an online course supported by a mixed methodology where e-learning will be supported by m-learning and tv-learning. The triple system will exploit the benefits of distance learning tools and will replace the weaknesses of each methodology with the potential offered by the others, thus ensuring high interaction, portability, no limit of space and time, multimedia, simulations. These intrinsic qualities of TIPS system will



positively impact on cultural mediators' learning process by promoting customised training able to fit different learning styles. Furthermore, the integrated technology is supported by a unique back-end system allowing tracking and monitoring the users' training path and supporting them with a regular tutoring assistance.



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Moreover some of For.Com staff people took part in international events in order to promote the project.

- Dr. Ilaria Mascitti and Federica Funghi (For.Com) participated to the International Conference on Mobile Learning, Algarve, Portugal – April 9th 10th 11th 12th 2008

Next participation to events:



T-learning to Improve Professional Skills for intercultural dialogue

- Dr. Ilaria Mascitti and Federica Funghi (For.Com) will take part to the International Workshop organized by GUIDE ASSOCIATION – Rome, Italy - 15th -16th May 2008
- Dr Bénédicte Halba, president of Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (France) will take part to the Conference on Migration in and from South-Eastern Europe, Sofia-Bulgaria – June 2nd and 3rd 2008

The second issue of the periodical TIPS Newsletter will be online in July 2008

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