

TIPS NEWSLETTER July 2008

The Newsletter Issue 2 is part of the informative material concerning the aims and activities of the TIPS project and it intends to disseminate and promote the main project outcomes.

European context

Immigration is an on going debate in Europe. France started its EU Presidency by officially presenting a 'European Pact on Immigration and Asylum' at the European Council for Justice and Home affairs, on 7th and 8th of July 2008 in Cannes. The pact starts with a preamble, intended to reassure countries that the Union is not becoming a 'Fortress Europe'. It recalls the fact that Europe receives more immigrants than North America and states that the continent needs immigration for economic and demographic reasons. Five major guidelines have been developed:

- To better protect Europe by controlling its borders in a spirit of solidarity ; the centerpiece on the operational side is the strengthening of Frontex, the agency of European police for external borders with two permanent bodies ;
- To organise legal migration in harmony with the capacity of each member country to receive immigrants and in a spirit of solidarity ; the centerpiece is the European 'Blue Card' initiative, meant to reverse the trend of Europe receiving low-skilled immigrants compared to Canada and the USA ;
- To organise the selective repatriation of illegal immigrants ; the pact adds ia better co-operation between member countries, improve the legal base of readmission agreements and increase the fight against human trafficking, etc. ;
- To build a Europe of asylum ; The countries are expected to put in place by 2010 common guarantees on asylum and a uniform refugee status.
- To promote the development of the countries of immigration ; the EU will offer third countries opportunities for legal migration for work or studies or promote the return of third country nationals to their places of origin - for the benefit of their societies.

TIPS aims and objectives in the European perspective

In a macro-level perspective, national states and the European Union have settled legal framework to master migration flows. On a meso-level, institutions, most of the time public authorities but also habilitated associations have to apply these legislations. On a micro-level, individuals are faced to very practical problems in their everyday life. Cultural mediators are the common channel,

the “bridge”, between all these levels. They have come to play a key role in the social integration process of immigrants. The TIPS project is an innovative project in two ways: it is addressing a brand new profession, cultural mediation ; it is proposing a new learning methodology, T-learning methodology merging together TV-leaning, E-learning and M-learning.

TIPS activity – Workpackage 2 “Studies and research”

In December 2007 began the “Studies and research” phase coordinated by the Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (Iriv, www.iriv.net). All the partners are involved in the Studies and Research work package (WP2): Iriv (leader of WP2, France), Auxilium (Austria), HOU (Greece), FOR.COM (Italy), Tischner European University (Poland).

Iriv has been chosen as a leader for this work package as it has been working on the topic of migration since 2003 through previous European projects:

- Involve (www.involve-europe.eu) : migrants' involvement in voluntary and civic activities as a means of integration (2004-2006) ; a European project initiated by the European Center for Volunteering (Brussels) under the INTI programme in 7 countries ;
- MEM-VOL (www.mem-volunteering.net) : Migrants and Ethnic Minority Volunteering (2003); a European exchange study initiated by Inbas Sozialforschung (Germany) on volunteering as a means of social, cultural and professional integration and of empowerment and development of the civil society, under the Transnational programme for Social Cohesion in 6 countries.

This first step of the TIPS project, the realization of a Compared Research, is meant to clearly define cultural mediators' competences, skills and training needs. For this purpose, a research team has been set up and coordinated by Dr Benedicte Halba (Iriv) and has followed the key activities:

- Setting up of the Research Team and clarification of the work plan ;
- Compared research on migration ;
- Compared research on cultural mediators profiles and training needs ;
- Consultation among cultural mediators and interviews ;
- Collection and selection of significant case studies ;
- Definition of a glossary ;
- Selection of main verbal expressions used in first contact ;
- First general framework for the pilot training course.

Under the “Studies and research” phase, the partners have realized so far:

- a first report concerned an overview of immigration in each of the 5 countries : History of migration ; Public policy in the field of immigration ; Statistics ; Key actors ; Bibliography ;
- a second report was focussed on cultural mediation : main profiles of cultural mediators in each partnership country – qualifications required – training proposed ;
- a complementary third report stated the results of a consultation made among cultural mediators in May and June 2008 , thanks to a questionnaire proposed by Iriv;
- a report on Case studies, following a grid taken into account the following items : context, public addressed, problem faced, solutions proposed, conclusion ;
- a report proposing a general framework for the pilot training course : a list of modules meant to cope with the results of the consultation made.

On the basis of the needs expressed by cultural mediators interviewed during the consultation (May-June 2008) and the theoretical material provided by the different partners, a general framework for the pilot training course, with training contents and a pedagogical approach, has been designed and built, some kind of “ideal cultural mediator training course” corresponding to the TIPS’ objectives. It should integrate the following items:

- 3 modules dedicated to the presentation of the TIPS project, the innovative methodology of the t-learning approach, the needs for training expressed by a brand new profession, cultural mediators ;
- 2 modules dedicated to the main specificity of cultural mediation : solving conflicts under agreed principles ;
- 2 modules précisising the environment of cultural mediation, the diversity issues and the policy of migration on both national and European levels ;
- 5 modules focussed on specific contexts for cultural mediation : access to rights, social housing, education, employment, health ;
- 3 modules focussed on particular publics: youngsters, women and elderly.

For these selected contents, the TIPS team will realise different learning objects to be benefited through the 3 different platforms (T-learning). A learning Object Chart (LO Chart) should be developed in this perspective. The didactic contents (learning objects) will be benefited by the students on a “on demand” modality, based on their background, interest, job, time, and place... The main advantages for the students, in comparison with traditional training courses, will consist on the integration of three tools: e-learning platform, TV-learning platform and mobile learning.

The use of the three tools should provide effective didactic support whenever and wherever needed, preserving the didactical efficiency.

This structure should guarantee the flexibility of the distance learning modality and the autonomy of the students in choosing their own personal training path. This means that the TIPS course (in terms of quality and quantity dimension) should be different from the “traditional in-presence modality”, asking for more interactivity, multimediality, and personalisation.

Dissemination and Promotion events

Some of TIPS staff people took part in international events in order to promote the project.

Proff. Giovanni Briganti, vice president for For.Com, took part to the International Workshop organized by GUIDE ASSOCIATION – Rome, Italy - 15th -16th May 2008. He has presented on this occasion a speech concerning the architecture of the TIPS T-learning platform.

Dott.ssa Federica Funghi, For.Com Project Manager, took part to the “Eden Conference: New learning culture” – <http://eden2008.wordpress.com/2008/06/13/bilder-fran-postersession>. Lisbon, 11-14 June. Federica Funghi presented a TIPS poster.

Dr Bénédicte Halba, president of Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (France) took part to the Conference on Migration in and from South-Eastern Europe, Sofia (Bulgaria) in June 2nd and 3rd 2008. She has been published on this occasion an article entitled “Lifelong learning: a key issue for Migration, Migrants and professionals working with them, the example of the TIPS project”. After a presentation of the general framework of migration in the European Union, the article was meant to answer two questions: how far can lifelong learning be an opportunity for migration, migrants and professionals working for them? How could cultural mediation play a key role to enhance integration of migrants in European societies?

Local events:

Rome, 27th of June: Italy promotion event. This event intended to provide not only a promotional event to share the TIPS aim and phases with stakeholder, but also an opportunity to meet the Cultural Mediators in order to involve them in the setting-up process concerning the First general framework for the pilot training course. Following some pictures regarding the Rome event:



In the TIPS Web Site (Communication - National Event section – www.forcom.it/tipsproject) is available the video of the Italian event and the PPS concerning the speeches.

Paris, 1st of July: France national meeting. This first event gathering cultural mediators was the occasion for them to describe their activities and express their needs for training. The profession is a brand new one as it has begun since the beginning of the nineties with the so-called “femmes-relais” meant to play the go-between in the suburbs of big cities in France (Paris, Lyon, Marseille...) between institutions and ethnic minorities. The cultural mediators present were almost all women. The only man was more interested in the new technology. After a presentation of the TIPS project (Life Long Learning Program and T-learning approach), the results of the consultation made among cultural mediators (May-June 2008 in Ile-de-France) were detailed and then the discussion began on the framework of the pilot training (main issues to be developed). The debates have been fruitful and the questions numerous especially on the three platforms proposed (mobile, internet and TV) that are very challenging for them.

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

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