

Raising the skills of adults on the margins of lifelong learning (ELEVATION)

Partners: Croatia, Poland, Romania, Cyprus, Ireland, Portugal

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As Europe recovers slowly from the effects of the economic crisis there are some key benchmarks that were set as part of the EU2020 strategy that remain outside of the reach for most EU Member States on an individual and throughout the EU on a collective basis. One such target is the 15% adult participation rate in lifelong learning. With current rates of Romania 1.1%; Croatia 2.3%; Poland 3.7%; Cyprus 6.9%; Ireland 8.9%; Portugal 9.8%; none of the countries participating in this project have reached or exceeded the benchmark set.

Engaging marginalised adults in education and training can be a thankless task for educators equipped with no more than the basic pedagogic instruments and approaches. What is needed to attract reluctant learners back to education and training is a comprehensive new approach that ignores the traditional institution based provision focused on subjects and instead pursues a more open and expansive provision based on embedded learning techniques and 'open-house' community learning festivals. Rewarding even the smallest learning achievement is essential to encourage those re-engaged to continue their educational journey.

The ELEVATION project proposes to develop a comprehensive and bespoke new learning framework to attract those furthest from the mainstream back into education and training. The project will develop the following intellectual outputs to help achieve its objectives: IO1 - A suite of 24 thematic mini-learning format resources for key competence acquisition that embed learning in artistic disciplines; cultural disciplines; digital and social media; sport and hobbies.

IO2 - An in-service training programme and handbook to support adult and community educators to harness the full potential of the bespoke embedded learning resources provided

IO3 - A community learning festival planning handbook that contains all the necessary plans and resources to organise a community learning festival

IO4 - A bespoke e-learning portal to ensure that marginalised adults have access to all learning resources provided on a range of fixed and mobile devices

IO5 - A thought provoking policy paper to fuel the policy debate among adult education authorities It is clear from the latest participation figures that current approaches need to be further expanded into non-formal and informal learning areas if the required participation rates are to be achieved.

During the lifetime of the ELEVATION project over 600 marginalised adults will be re-engaged in lifelong learning and started back on a learning pathway to inclusion and personal fulfillment.