



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Innovative strategies for the prevention of the re-offending Kick off Meeting, Paris, January 24-25 2008

Setting:

The first coordination meeting in the project “Innovative Strategies for the Prevention of Re-offending” took place in Paris on 24-25 of January 2008.

The main objectives were to

- get to know each other
- become acquainted with the project content
- share responsibilities in terms of content (leadership of work packages) and finance
- define the calendar agenda

List of participants

- Peter ROSSEL, project manager, Gottingen, GERMANY
- Nils PAGELS, project manager, Gottingen, GERMANY
- Siegfried LÖPRICK, project manager, Gottingen, GERMANY
- Jose Luis DIEGO OROZCO, project manager, Valencia, SPAIN
- Ángel ALBERDIN ARIZA, project manager, Valencia, SPAIN
- Alessandra VERRIENTI, project manager, S.R.F., Torino, ITALY
- Richard SZOTKOWSKI, Head of the Municipal Police, Opava, CZECH REPUBLIC
- Jaroslav MACHOVSKY, International Relations manager, Opava, CZECH REPUBLIC
- Gabriel ANDRONACHE, Deputy Mayor, Brasov, ROMANIA
- Bianca KRAILA, International Relations manager, Brasov, ROMANIA
- Bertrand BINCTIN, Deputy Mayor, Le Havre, FRANCE
- Fanny MOTHRE, Project coordinator, Le Havre, FRANCE
- Pal BAAN, external evaluator, Budapest, HUNGARY
- Michel MARCUS, Deputy Director, FESU
- Roxana CALFA, project manager, FESU

Agenda of the meeting

Thursday January 24th Morning session	Round table Each partner presented their experience in the field of prevention of re-offending and in European projects. Project proposal presentation The project proposal such as it was accepted by the European Commission was presented, so that all partners become acquainted with the project.
Thursday January 24th Afternoon session	Discussions on the WP. Discussion on the content and activities of each WP, as well as on the leadership of each WP. Budget Discussion on the global budget and on the budget of each WP
Friday January 25th Morning session	Administrative details Discussion on each partner's budget Definition of the first year agenda.

1. Round table

All partners introduced themselves to the audience. The round table revealed that some of the project partners had developed innovative projects in terms of prevention of re-offending, such as the BASIC Project in Gottingen, and had experience in this field, such as the S.R.F. in Torino, who set up a reinsertion kit to prepare offenders for their coming out of the prison. Others joined the project with the aim of improving their knowledge. All the partners consider this project as an opportunity to exchange practices and a challenge to improve their efficiency.

2. The project proposal

Since at the moment of the project submittal the applicant knew little on the experience and competences of the project partners, an update and re-discussion on the project content was necessary. Everybody had to become acquainted with the basic ideas of the project, so as to have a common basis for discussions.

The idea of the project was to identify innovative strategies for the prevention of re-offending that are put into practice in Europe and beyond and to capitalize these practices and draft a pilot programme that could be put in place in various European cities, with the tools local authorities have at their disposal.

The project activities supposed a phase of research, during which each partner has to make some research on the innovative practices implemented at local level in their respective countries (5 days each). In addition, an external researcher has to make research on the same topic but encompassing a greater area, Europe and beyond, and in addition capitalize the results of the partners' research work.

A second step consists in organizing study visits in Gottingen, Torino, Valencia and Paris, so as to see how effective programmes have been implemented, what is there to improve or to adapt.

A third step would be the conception of a pilot programme based on the results of the study visits and of the research work.

Finally, this pilot programme is to be implemented in the three pilot cities: Opava, Brasov and Le Havre. Being well aware that the project duration is not enough to implement a whole programme, what we will try to do is to accompany these cities in the first phases of programme implementation, that is identifying the key stakeholders, identifying specific problems and envisaging solutions, setting up an implementation agenda of activities, providing a methodology and making sure that the cities start on the right path. Pilot cities should be assisted by the other partners all along the process.

Discussions:

Several questions were raised during this session, related to the definition of the research field:

Should there be an age limit fixed for the subjects of the research, considering the fact that legal procedures are not the same for minors or young adults? Several opinions argued in favour of not fixing an arbitrary limit, since the age of legal responsibility is not the same depending on the country (15 in some, 16, 18 in others), suggesting that the research in itself might provide clear indicators of age. Yet, since we are talking of measures to favour social reinsertion and improving employability, offenders in age to work should be primarily concerned.

Another question concerned the distinction to be made on grounds of gender: should there be a specific treatment for boys and girls? Again, the majority opted for no differentiation.

Should the research address first-crime offenders or repeated-crime offenders? This distinction was judged irrelevant, since one has to take into account that getting out of crime is a progressive process, and that the cases of one offence for which a sentence has been given is usually followed by others.

Following discussions on the “target group” of this project, Peter Rossel made this necessary clarification that in this project the target group are the adults working in the various city services with young offenders, the latter being only the indirect beneficiaries. Parents should also be included in the target group, since they are supposed to have an important impact on the ex-offender behaviour.

As to the nature of the crimes committed by young offenders, it was agreed that the research would concern petty crime, which represents some three quarters of the re-offending statistics.

Another interrogation concerned the fact of whether treating drug and alcohol questions related to re-offending. Since the project focuses on re-offending, this distinction seemed not relevant enough to be given special treatment, but it should be rather treated within a global approach.

3. Work Packages (WP)

Each work package was presented in terms of activities to carry out and calendar to stick to.

One of the main issues to discuss was the decision on the leadership of some of the work packages, since the European Commission insisted on the shared responsibility among partners.

The EFUS assumes the WP Management and Dissemination.

For administrative reasons, Opava and Le Havre are in a position that does not allow them to assume the leadership of a WP.

WP Research is under debate, since Gottingen and S.R.F. – Torino are interested in assuming its leadership.

WP Exploitation and Evaluation fall under the responsibility of Brasov.

WP Preparation of activities was proposed to S.R.F – Torino, but it seems to them difficult to assume.

An important aspect was raised, that of the financial responsibility for the leaders of WPs, hence the idea of shared management. If that is possible, than the financial responsibility of each of the larger WPs should be shared among the respective partners (for example, the WP Preparation should be the responsibility of Gottingen, Torino, Valencia and EFUS, and WP Exploitation shared between Brasov, Opava and Le Havre).

This is one of top priorities to determine during the meeting with the Grundtvig with the helpdesk in Brussels, February 7th and 8th.

A calendar of the first year has also been agreed on:

3-4 April: Study visit in Göttingen

15-16 May: Study visit in Torino

19-20 June: Study visit in Valencia (to be confirmed)

10-11 July: Study visit in Brussels

Mid-end of October: 2nd coordinating meeting in Brussels, date to fix by the beginning of September.

NB!

Upon their return, the Gottingen representatives realised that the dates of the Study visit in Valencia were already booked in their agenda. 2 proposals were made, for either

- 5-6 June
- 12-13 June

Could you please get back to me as soon as possible on that? So as to fix the date for the study visit in Valencia?

4. Budget issues

Budget discussions occurred ever since the discussions on the leadership of the WPs, since the questions of balance was raised. Leaders of WPs had to assume a more important financial contribution, which did not seem fair. One solution would be the shared management of WP, but this has to be approved by the EC, and we should have an answer by February 11th.

According to the EC reply, the partnership contract will be finalized (based on the model handed out in the meeting) and sent by EFUS to all partners by February 15th. In their turn, these commit to have it sign at their earliest convenience (2 weeks for Gottingen and S.R.F, one month for Brasov, Le Havre, Opava and Valencia).

The first payment will be done to each partner after the receipt of the contract and a calculation of the number of days they are supposed to work during this first year.

The budget per partner as we calculate it on the Friday morning session.

Staff costs are to be accounted for with time sheets, according to the model that I am sending here attached.

Travel costs: it was established that real costs were to be reimbursed.

Attached you will find the bank account details sheet that I will kindly ask you to fill in and send back to the leader of the WP responsible for the various expenses for the reimbursements.

You are also required to produce all the receipts for the reimbursement: taxi receipts, train tickets, boarding passes for flights, and so on. In the case you need to keep the originals for your own accounting service, you will have to provide copies with a stamp certifying that they are copies conform to the originals.

Communication:

You are kindly required to answer e-mails at your earliest convenience, and to inform the other partners of longer periods of absence (holidays, etc.).

Another idea was that each of you should send me a photo, so that I could put it next to the corresponding name (so that each of us can put a face on the names in the participants' list).

I will be waiting for your proposal concerning the Valencia study visit and further questions that you might want to ask the Commission's helpdesk (deadline for questions this Wednesday, February 6th at 7 p.m. Paris time).

In case I have skipped anything from these minutes, do not hesitate to get back to me! (Roxana CALFA)