

More PAL – More Parents Associated for Learning

Project Evaluation – Trainers/Tutors

Simona Bernat – trainer

1. What methods did you use to empower parents?

My trainings were related to books writing and learning strategies. I had parents, children and teachers working together in the workshops, either to write and draw a book, or to fill in an individual learning plan. Some of the parents have written over the summer holiday their books, some on computer, some just manuscripts. The individual learning plans were filled in for the children whose parents and teachers are part of the project.

2. What did you gain from participation in international meetings?

The main gains I have are:

- Deepening the contact and communication with the project partners,
- Getting acquainted with new cultures, see and experience habits, local life, school life cultural life etc,
- Learn how parents think about learning in other countries,
- Improving my foreign language use,
- Participating in school activities and project activities,
- Learn about UFA,
- New ideas about how to do in the project in my own country.

3. How have you developed personally and professionally through your involvement in the project?

Yes, both. Personally I've experience new cultures that I might not be able to see without this project. Professionally I've deepened my knowledge about how parents could be helped to communicate better with their children and the children's teachers. Coordinating the writing of the guidebook on learning I also learn how to adjust the language and content to parents' needs and interests.

4. How would you evaluate the success of the work of your group?

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5. Do you have any suggestions for strengthening the links between school and family and for international networking?

Some ideas could be:

- Enter a G4 network with similar topic,
- Links the schools between them informally on project like "I have a school buddy from..."
- Links between schools by Comenius projects,
- Links between parents associations through electronic or other type of correspondence and communication.

Maria Kovacs - trainer

1. What methods did you use to empower parents?

The methods used to empower parents included

- Facilitate building of trust in the group of parents – help them to know each other, to communicate with each other in a relaxed, informal manner
- Provide information about PTAs and Pas in Romania
- Trusting them to make decisions about the Parents’ Association (acting only as a moderator of discussions, and provider of good practices rather than imposing any decisions on the group)

2. What did you gain from participation in international meetings?

I did not participate in any international meetings.

3. How have you developed personally and professionally through your involvement in the project?

In this project, I have had the chance to experience what it is like to work with a very diverse group of parents who intend to legally register a Parents’ Association. I had had the experience of registering other non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations, but in each case I had had the power to participate in the decision-making process. In this case, I did not have a vote; I simply facilitated the process of decision-making. So, on the personal level I learnt to be patient and trust that the initiative group would eventually make good decisions.

Professionally, I learnt a lot about PTAs, and about Parents’ Associations in Romania. I also learnt how to be flexible in planning activities for parents – to prepare several alternative plans in case fewer or more parents turn up than expected.

4. How would you evaluate the success of the work of your group?

On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is for the least successful, and 10 is for the most successful, I’d rate the success of the group as 7. In this particular project, the school we decided to work with should have been selected before the project was submitted; the school principal and group of parents should have been involved in working out the plan of activities, thus hoping that they would feel more ownership of the project.

5. Do you have any suggestions for strengthening the links between school and family and for international networking?

There is a lot more to do for strengthening school and family relations in Romania. Teachers and parents alike need to learn how to constructively communicate with each other.

Laura Runceanu – trainer

1. What methods did you use to empower parents?

I have organised group activities in which the parents have expressed their opinions about the specific topics of the training sessions. They have been given hand-outs with relevant information to be used outside the school.

2. What did you gain from participation in international meetings?

The project meetings have offered me excellent opportunities to share experiences and knowledge with my colleagues from the partner institutions. During the social events I have had the possibility to get in touch with the local culture and to deepen my knowledge about the countries.

3. *How have you developed personally and professionally through your involvement in the project?*

Yes, I did. I have met good professionals, to whom I have shared my ideas and set up new ones.

4. *How would you evaluate the success of the work of your group?*

I think that the group I have taken part had done an excellent work, which proves itself in the products that have been produced during the project activities.

5. *Do you have any suggestions for strengthening the links between school and family and for international networking?*

In a future project, one can promote more group discussions between the parents, originating from the partner countries.