



Identity and Difference: Creative Artistic Exercises as Didactic Support in Adult Education

A Grundtvig-Project with the support of the Lifelong learning Programme of the European Union

Background:

In recent years, pioneers in adult education have been introducing artistic activities, (such as painting, music, sculpture, dance and acting), into adult education, in various European countries. These exercises are implied in the context of social and communicative training, work with biographical and intercultural issues, the development of active civil engagement, social integration as well as in educational work with elderly people, and in general training courses.

The potentials of artistic and creative activities was simultaneously but independently discovered and introduced in different institutions of adult education in various European countries. In the project ARTID, European pioneer-institutions will collaborate for the first time in order to develop a general concept of artistic and creative activities in Adult education. This will also enable other adult education institutions, which are new to the field to benefit from previous experiences and gained knowledge, as well as introduce these methods into their educational program.

Objectives:

The project has two different levels of objectives:

1. Methodological Advancement of adult education by introducing and expanding the use of artistic exercises. The objective is to

- examine the potential of and the necessary conditions for the application of artistic exercises in adult education – by testing, exchange of experiences, and systematic analysis and evaluation.
- improve the attractiveness and effects of adult education activities for people with less educational achievement
- promote the creativity of adults and their openness to new ways and habits of behaviour and improvement of their competencies in handling social and cultural challenges in Europe.



2. Since it's not possible to develop and evaluate artistic activities in adult education abstractly, it's necessary to focus on a defined educational issue. Therefore as a thematic frame of its adult education activities, the project will focus on the theme "Identity and Difference" – an issue of high relevance in the context of European integration. Diversity and cultural heterogeneity are intrinsic elements of the European Community and part of its strengths. At the same time they cause integration-related challenges: to appreciate and to deal with cultural diversity, individuals themselves have to develop a stable cultural, social and personal Identity. By the development, test and optimization of adult education actions including artistic exercises, the projects aims at

- the support of adults, to experience cultural diversity as a chance and enrichment, to fruitfully interact with members of other social and cultural groups and to stay aware of its own identity at the same time.
- the generation and sustaining of identity building processes as a basis for intercultural and intergenerational dialogue focussing on different vulnerable social groups, already involved in the activities of the partners.
- the reduction of tensions and conflicts between these different cultural and social groups.

Partners

Role	Organisation
Consortium Leader + Evaluation	GAB GAB München Lindwurmstr. 41/43 D-80337 München Germany http://www.gab-muenchen.de
Partner	AWH Alanus Werkhaus Johannisahof D-53347 Alfter Germany http://www.alanus-werkhaus.de



Partner	<p>NWPRC North West Play Resource Centre Artillery St. 5-7 BT48 6RC Derry / Londonderry Northern Ireland</p> <p>http://www.derryplayhouse.co.uk</p>
Partner	<p>AMS Alytaus Muzikos Mokykla Sporto 12 LT-62152 Alytus Lithuania</p> <p>http://www.ams.lt/muzikosmokykla</p>
Partner	<p>AAE Akademie Anthroposophische Erwachsenenbildung Tilgnerstr. 3/II A-1040 Wien Austria</p> <p>http://www.akademie-ae.at</p>
Partner	<p>EUROB EUROB - Associazione per la Pedagogica Waldorf Corso Libertà 85 I-39100 Bolzano Italy</p> <p>http://www.waldorfschule.it</p>



Work programme:

The Project will have the following phases:

1. Kick Off:

In the context of a common Kick-Off-Workshop, every partner will identify from the variety of his work one subject which has a close relation to the frame subject (Identity and Difference) and he wants to develop further. The partners will discuss the connection between the different subjects and by that assure the cohesion of the project and its different elements

The following subjects have been chosen:

Partner	Subject:
<i>The Playhouse</i>	Dialogue between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland
<i>Alytus Music School</i>	Integration of people with different abilities by promoting cultural traditions
<i>Alanus Werkhaus</i>	Biographical Identity and Migration
<i>Academy for Anthroposophical Adult Education</i>	Intergenerational exchange and learning
<i>EUROB</i>	Integration and Assimilation of German, Italian and Ladinian Culture

2. Development

Every Partner will develop on the background of its own experience an adult education action of maximum 3 days length dealing with the chosen topic. Artistic Activities will make the core of these actions

3. First Application and Analysis

The partners will take turns in visiting each other and will participate in the adult education action developed by the hosting partner. Subsequent to every action a short symposium will be held dealing with the evaluation of the experienced artistic activity and its methodological integration. The partners will analyze the artistic activity, identify its strengths and weaknesses and try, in the sense of best practice, to describe transferable elements and sequences. At the same time, they will identify common research- and development perspectives on artistic exercises in adult education, focussing especially on the conditions necessary for their application. The results of each symposium will be



documented, giving the basis for the discussion on the next one. By this a continuous process of leaning between the partners can get facilitated.

4. Optimization and Second Application

After the first round of visits all partners will adapt their artistic activity on the basis of the gained experiences, integrating Elements and Approaches of the other partners. The partners will apply their improved artistic activity in their institutions, will evaluate and document them and will write a report on his experiences.

5. Summary

The Partners will come together for a summary-meeting of several days' duration. They will report on the second application of their artistic activity ("lessons learned") and together will identify the results of the exchange: Possibilities, forms and limits of application of artistic exercises in adult education, basic principles and conditions, best-practice, recommendations.

6. Transfer

The results will be documented in a concerted booklet and presented to prominent representatives of the European adult education system in the context of an international Conference.

The Alanus University Alfter and Vilnius Paedagogical University will integrate the results in their curricula development.

The European Forum for Intercultural Dialog at Alanus University will - in cooperation with the other partners - facilitate such a conference on artistic exercises in adult education every two years.

Products:

- Every partner will develop a new adult education activity and integrate it in his permanent program.
- A handbook for artistic activities in adult education will be produced and published in English and German, including guidelines for the development and application of artistic exercises in adult education activities.
- An up to date Project Homepage will be introduced
- A Booklet on the conceptual framework and the activities of the project will be published and translated into German, Lithuanian and Italian



- A PPT-Presentation of the conceptual framework, the adult education actions, experiences and core statements will be made up and translated into German, Lithuanian and Italian.
- The project will produce a number of publications, articles in relevant journals and brochures, which will discuss and characterize the potentials of and necessary conditions for artistic exercises in adult education.
- An international network of adult education institutions and other relevant organisations gets established and facilitated beyond projects lifetime. This network will meet regularly for a series of international conferences for the purpose of exchange of experiences, further methodological development and the dissemination of the use of artistic exercises.

Project Duration:

November 2008 - September 2010

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<http://www.art-in-adult-education.net>

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