



METHODA

A Grundtvig Learning Partnership Year 2 Report – September 2007

Highland Adult Literacies (Highland Community Learning and Development Partnership) has now completed its two year Grundtvig Learning partnership which it has carried out with organisations in five other countries namely Denmark (lead partner), Austria, France, Italy and Spain. All the organisations are working with young adults who are marginalised in society, in order to engage them in lifelong learning. In Highland the Calman Trust Project for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, is the participating group.



The acronym of the project title METHODA stands for Methodological Exchange between Trainers of Disadvantaged Adults and the aim was to look at the various methods that partners use for peer learning and training in their respective countries and then to exchange good practice with other partners.

The aims for the second year were to evaluate, build on and expand the ideas that were produced in the first year and

to develop the website into something that the young people could use to communicate with and to express ideas.

The first meeting of the second year of the METHODA Project was held in Salzburg in November where various training methodologies were investigated. Heather Pirie the peer training organiser with Calman drew up a template for partners to define their methods. We also evaluated the culminating session of the first year in Milan when the young people had come together for the first time to present their workshops and train their peers in Europe in new skills. This gave us a practical indication on the changes that needed to be undertaken and, learning from the first year we drew up a list of evaluation criteria for the next phase. Finally we planned the next meeting in Denmark which would again include young people.

Back in Inverness Calman began to work with a group of young people to prepare for the meeting in Hvidovre in Denmark. Various ideas were put forward for potential workshops with a mini-Highland Games coming out as front runner. It was not possible to find a Danish teacher so some of the basics were learned in various European languages. In the event, for various reasons, only one young person from Calman was able to attend the event in Denmark which he did accompanied by the Calman Peer Mentoring Officer and the Adult Literacies Coordinator. However the workshop was very well presented and was voted one of the best by the other young people who attended. He was also able to organise a Scottish dancing session which had been a special request after the success of this dance workshop the previous year.



Other workshops in Hvidovre included artwork using recycled parts of electronic equipment, how to make soft drink cocktails, flower binding and making wallets from old magazines. All the workshops were evaluated by the young people themselves and this proved to be a real learning experience and confidence boosting exercise for those who presented them.

A video film was made by some of the young people in Denmark to document the project.

The final meeting of the year, and indeed of the project, was held in Sorbiers, France. An evaluation was conducted of the whole METHODDA project with reflection and exchange of views on the gains acquired from the whole experience by the partner groups, both by the young people and by the partner staff members.

Discussion was had on future informal contact between partners and agreement to keep the website live for a few months yet.



The overall impression of this project, on evaluation, was that it had been very valuable and many lessons had been learnt. Perhaps one of the main lessons was how short a time many of the young people stay with organisations. The young people who were involved in the second year of the project were different, almost entirely, from those who had been involved in the first year so there was no continuity in that respect although continuity came from the adult trainers.

The young person who took part from Calman found the whole experience of meeting with other young people from different cultures very exciting. He is now engaged on a college course.

An evaluation of the whole project is now available.