

IMPLEMENTING THE TRAME PROJECT IN HUNGARY

Updated 28 February 2015

The Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH), based on its winning application, has been given the opportunity to participate as a partner in the TRAME project within the framework of the European Grundtvig Life Long Learning (Adult) Program. The complete title of this program is „TRAME-Transferring Competencies through Self-Narration and Mentoring Process” and, with 4 foreign partners participating, will be completed between August 2013 and June 2015. Our partners come from Germany, Turkey, Ireland and Malta.

AWCDH REFERENCES

Our application was successful because since our foundation in 2003 we have prioritized the inclusion in our programs of women from rural areas. We believe women have a crucial role to play in maintaining rural population levels, preserving the countryside, nurturing and developing women's skills and increasing local employment opportunities in areas outside of agriculture including tourism, hospitality and handicrafts.

We have organized more than 30 international conferences dealing with employment and career opportunities for women of all ages. At some of our recent conferences we also displayed products created by rural female artisans. Some of these were small local events but we also organized a large event at the “Rural Women's Day” in September 2013 on Hungexpo Fair Centre in Budapest. This event included artisan's exhibitions, gifts, table ware and a fashion show.

We take particular pride in our awards for Women's Equality, Best Workplace for Women and the Women's Career Lifetime Achievement Award as they were created by the famous Hungarian ceramic artists, Klára Kósa and Judit Józsa.

Through co-operating with our European counterparts we aim to transpose foreign best practices into a Hungarian framework, while at the same time presenting exemplary Hungarian practices abroad through the networks we have established within the European Union and the United Nations.

AWCDH has been given the opportunity to cooperate in the work of UN/ECOSOC as the first Hungarian NGO in “Special consultative status with UN-ECOSOC”, which was awarded in 2009. This recognition enhances and complements our work in the areas of European relations and global issues such as gender equality, rural women and sustainability, etc.

ACTIVITIES

In our program in Hungary we have placed particular emphasis on gaining the participation of older more mature artisans who are also recognized artists. We also include artisans who practice their skills with enthusiasm and devotion just as a hobby.

In accordance with the aims of the Project we have developed close ties with our partners, exchanging valuable personal insights at our meetings and via the internet, skype, phone, emails, etc on an ongoing basis.

Trainings

In relation to teacher training the initial test program was provided by Maria Teresa Marciali, initiator of the Trame project (Italy) in September 2013 and by Dr. Elisabetta Abbondanza on behalf of our German Partner AWO at our first meeting in Budapest in November 2013.

Hungarian self-narration manual

Based on our experiences and on the Hungarian tradition our team of experts led by Mrs. Ildiko Modláné Görgényi, Expert for Vocational Education and Adult Education (Ex-Deputy Director General, Hungarian Labour Inspectorate) has developed the „Manual for trainers / teachers for teaching self-narration for Hungarian artisans”.

Advertising and implementing the self-narration trainings for artisans 2014

Our program has been widely publicized to encourage artisans to become involved and to bring to their attention to the importance of transferring their knowledge to the next generation including family members and others interested in developing these skills. It also offers the opportunity to pursue lifelong learning of these skills.

We have placed invitations on our website, on local government on-line media, e-mailed the Hungarian Artisan's associations and made personal contact at major artisan's fairs. We also included Hungarian NGOs in the scope of our ongoing cross-border cooperation to capture our world famous Hungarian folklore from the Carpathian Basin.

Our advisor and cooperation partner in the TRAME program is Mrs. Klára Kósa ceramic artist, Master of Folk Art.

Based on our survey of interest we have organized teacher trainings in Budapest, Nyíregyháza and in cooperation with our partner organization (Magyar Asszonyok Ligája – MAL) in Gúta, Slovakia between April-September 2014.

The trainings were led by Mrs. Ildiko Modláné Görgényi who has previously surveyed competencies of the participants. She has also prepared evaluation of the trainings.

Knowledge transfer

In relation to transferring skills from older artisans to younger generations we have had to ensure a real readiness and interest so that we can make the TRAME aims effective.

Dr. Péterné Erdei (Dr. Katalin Nagy), deputy mayor of Agárd, is a wood carver. In May 2014 at a Student's meeting in Estonia (Elva) she used the opportunity for the first time to transfer her carving knowledge to Hungarian and other students from different EU countries. The second opportunity was at the Christmas Artisan's Fair in Agárd where she taught interested young people (and others) in the skills of the carving handicraft and told stories about her life.

She also participated as a teacher in the program organized by the AWCDH in January 2015 for 6 young learners in Budapest together with *Dr. Valéria Farkasné Molnár* who is also an adviser to the National Assembly Committee on Business Development. For many years she has devoted her spare time to producing artisan marmalades, jams, chutneys and syrups which she often gives as presents to family and friends.

She enjoys making these products and sharing her knowledge with younger women to encourage them to continue this tradition which has been passed on by generations of women since the dawn of time.

We invited *Brigitta Karászi (Brigi)* as a learner to our knowledge transfer event where she participated enthusiastically learning Vali's skills. Brigi as a volunteer of Eszter Foundation would like to learn and use the self-narration method of psychotherapy to teach it as a tool to women who are victims of violence to help them back to living a normal life.

An excellent example of our self-narration program is this successful transfer of knowledge from a resident in the "Szépkorúak Idősek Otthona" Nursing Home, Süttő.

Mrs Ildikó Haraszti, Director of the nursing home and ageing expert of the AWCDH, noticed that a resident, Mrs Hartman, affectionately known as "Aunt Gizi", was very skillful at making beautiful embroideries. Following her participation in the first training in Budapest held by Maria Teresa, Mrs Haraszti decided to teach "Aunt Gizi" about self-narration and the importance of passing on her wonderful skills to the younger generation.

The residents of the nursing home have become accustomed to being involved in Ildiko's special programs keeping them active and bringing meaning and purpose to their lives. The programs also attract young people and children to the nursing home which is extremely important. So far Ildikó has organized two of these "knowledge transfer events" attracting young girls to visit and learn Aunt Gizi's embroidery making skills and listen to "auntie's" stories about her fascinating life.

The Hungarian Experience

One of the most important outcomes of our TRAME program which we believe should be shared at EU level is Ildiko Haraszti's (andragogist-gerontagogist, MA level) extremely positive experience of using self-narration in a nursing home. This was witnessing the new meaning, purpose and dignity which TRAME brought to elderly people, hugely enhancing their confidence and self respect.

Ildiko is now preparing for her PhD - Subject: "Keeping identity in older ages through the methods of gerontoeducation and self-narration".