



European network for adult literacy and numeracy
Réseau européen pour l'alphabétisation des adultes

1. Michael POWER (Ireland) - Tim-Thilo FELLMER (Deutschland)

Tim-Thilo FELLMER's transcript has been translated into ENGLISH¹

If you have something to say about your life, something that was very important for you, what would you say?

M.POWER:

Well, for me it's about how education has changed my life and how going back to education first and foremost to help my family, it has changed my whole career as far as working-wise and how, just going that first night to meet my tutor one to one. And now, I'm here in a project like this, this Eur-Alpha project and I help my family to do their homework. It's just changed my whole life and made me a better person, I feel more active in society and in my own community.

T-T.FELLMER:

I am very happy, that now I can read and write. That I am able to do so many things I couldn't do before. The fact is: I've realized, that I can achieve more than I ever thought is possible. I am very happy, that I can put myself out for the subject now, which is so close to my heart. I am really very happy that I can also collaborate at European level in the subject and thus can encourage more people. We can illustrate what is possible. This is very important to me!

Today I have alternative perspectives:

- *I am able to participate in society very differently.*
- *I am able to live an independent life, which previously was not the case.*
- *I am able to put myself out for the other.*
- *I can help them, encourage them.*

There is an entirely new quality of life I can live with today, which was not possible before, not even a bit. That all has changed.

M.POWER:

The training for me has helped me to participate in my own society, to be involved and to understand exactly what's going on even in my life, healthwise. Now I have trained, I am more educated and I understand health issues, both for myself and my family and I'm also very involved in my community and I know what's going on politically. Now I can campaign on behalf of people with literacy difficulties to try and make it easier for people that are coming behind me and to show them the way. And this training has enriched me, enriched my life and made me ready to help other people and to help my family from my key role when I started out.

¹ Translated by Elfriede HALLER.



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For me this Eur-Alpha project was fantastic and a very emotional trip because I've met students from around Europe and it's helped me to understand more how literacy is such a difficulty in other countries and also to share my practices and it shows how.... What I really learned it's how these people that have literacy difficulties in all these European countries, I believe in my heart that they have more understanding about the problem in their country than some of the politicians that are there and I believe that these people should be involved at a higher level politically and they have a huge contribution to make within their own country. Because I believe that some of those people might have no education but they have ten times more to offer to society that some more educated people have.

T-T.FELLMER:

To me it means an awful lot to meet learners from so many countries. To see how they work locally, to recognize how similar we all are. How similar our problems are. Learning a lot for their country by the exchange between the countries, how to proceed and therefore how to help the others, give tips. The linguistic diversity and to cope with, is also a very important aspect for me, also to improve myself. These are aspects, which do me very good, also that the issue has reached the level, where it is now, how it is perceived and the respectful handling of it.

I just think that Eur-Alpha was only the beginning. It must go on. We have now shown and seen that we can work together very good at European level and that we must be there. There is no other way. This has been shown in the project. My wish is that there will be other projects in the future, which should be larger, where more countries are integrated. Just to be able to continue the promotion for the important topic of literacy. In principle, many other learners, also from different countries, must have the opportunity to make this experience for taking back a lot into their countries.

M.POWER:

I would love to see these projects continue but more so, develop something into with students. A network of students at a European level that we can go around in each country to help, and to campaign for people with literacy difficulties and create awareness and also that we will have an active part politically in each of this countries and at European level. And it's a dream for me, for me now, this is my dream and I really believe from this project and from meeting people that dreams can come true and I know with more funding that we can make changes as students.