



eur-alpha

Newsletter

#9 – September 2012

And eventually... Bonn!



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

Photo credit: © Lire et Ecrire

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The Eur-Alpha network aims to support and develop best quality practices in adult literacy and numeracy in Europe. It was founded in 2009 and currently counts 16 full members coming from 12 different countries.

- Eur-Alpha works with the **trainers** to develop and exchange educational practices facilitating learners self-determination, citizenship and participation.
 - Through a scientific Committee that collects, develops and disseminates practices meeting those goals of self-determination, voicing of opinion and participation of the learners;
 - Through workshops where the trainers meet each other and test pedagogical practices.
- Eur-Alpha works with the **learners** to support their voicing of opinions and participation.
 - Through a scientific Committee where they discuss their needs, their claims and write a Charter for literacy;
 - Through workshops where they meet, exchange experiences and discuss their role as citizens at the national and European levels.

This newsletter is downloadable, in English and in French, at the following address
eur-alpha.eu/spip.php?article186

If you wish to subscribe to the newsletter, go to eur-alpha.eu and fill in the form on the left of the home page. The newsletter is available in English or in French.

Eur-Alpha News

And eventually... Bonn!

It's hard to sum up three years of work. Nevertheless, we –learners, tutors and project managers– tried in Bonn, to show the richness of exchanges and the variety of activities of the network in only three days. To keep a record of the event, here is an extract of our log book.

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Some of us arrived early: we enjoy a nice dinner and each other's company.

MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

It's the "dress rehearsal" before the D-Day. We set up the stands, rehearse the theatre play and get our bearings. Then, we take the opportunity to finalize the brochure: slip the



Concert of 'Lady Talk' © Lire et Ecrire

Manifesto, the Charter and the DVD inside. Without mixing up the English and the French versions! Spirits are high and the 600 brochures are packed in no time.

After all these efforts, we spend an exceptional evening with 'Lady talk'. Chills guaranteed thanks to their exquisite voices and original *repertoire*. Scandinavian sounds, jazz and R&B are coming together to the delight of all.



Team-working for the handling of the publications © Lire et Ecrire

TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

The big day is here, we welcome the external public. We fix the very last details trying not to show how nervous we are.

First of all, **Monika Kil** and **Monika Tröster** welcome the participants on behalf of the German Institute for Adult Education (DIE, Eur-Alpha partner and conference host). Then, the speakers keep rolling: **Thomas Bartelt** from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, **Nadia Baragiola** and **Catherine Stercq** from the Coordination team of Eur-Alpha Network, **Ulrike Hanemann** from the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and finally, **Martina Ni-Cheallaigh**, from the European Commission.

The speeches were really diverse: institutional and factual for some, militant and autobiographical for others.



From left to right: Catherine Stercq, Martina Ni-Cheallaigh and Monika Tröster © Lire et Ecrire



Learners reading the Manifesto © Lire et Ecrire

On the second part of the morning, the tutors and the learners come in. The tutors explained how the Charter was designed, presented a tool to develop the reflexive analysis and emphasized the need to promote creativity. “Fun is a serious business!” they say.

Afterwards, the learners brought their claims to life (Manifesto) by means of their action-theatre. The sketches mix German, English, Spanish, French and Dutch. So many languages, so many voices to try to be heard. Finally, the

multilingual reading of their claiming book and the final ‘we want!’ –shouted by the learners– was the perfect end to the morning.

In the afternoon, the participants could visit the associations’ stands, the tutors’ hands-on workshops and the learners’ presentations of the self-determination practices that take place in their associations.

To conclude the day, we came back to the plenary room. **Eunice Macedo** from the Paulo Freire’s Institute highlighted the key moments of the conference and the lessons to be learned. **Michael Power** from the Learners’ Scientific Committee provided the learners’ perspective about these three years. A touching moment further reinforced by the distribution of roses to the Eur-Alpha partners (thanks **Radu!**).



The Eur-Alpha partners with their roses © Lire et Ecrire

WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

The Wednesday morning was devoted to the evaluation of the final conference but also of the project as a whole. The following questions were discussed: How to highlight and make the network known but most of all, how to keep it alive! Lots of good ideas were shared.



Evaluation day © Lire et Ecrire

Then, it was time to say goodbye, between smiles of satisfaction for our accomplishments and some tears due to the uncertainty of the future of to this wonderful experience.

To read our publications, visit:

eur-alpha.eu/spip.php?article179

Literacy in Europe

Report release: High-level group issues 'wake-up call' for Member States to address literacy crisis

Brussels/Nicosia, 6th September 2012

According to the high-level group of experts, the European Union needs to overhaul its approach to improving literacy standards, due to the fact that about 75 millions of adults in Europe lack basic reading and writing skills, which makes it hard for them to get a job and which can provoke social exclusion.

To read the whole report:
tinyurl.com/ue-120906

The UNRIC 'infographic' for the literacy day



Nearly 16% of world's population is illiterate © UNRIC

The United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC) published an 'infographic' (information graphic) for the literacy-world day (8th September) to show how important is to fight for literacy and the right to education for all. Furthermore, H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of Netherlands gave a speech for this day defending the rights for adults to have access to education.

UNRIC:

- To see the whole poster: visual.ly/literacy-world
- To listen to Princess Laurentien's video: vimeo.com/48585750

Agenda

27th September 2012: Active Ageing through adult education

EAEA (European Association for Education of Adults) organises a debate at the European Parliament (room JAN 6Q1).

23rd November 2012: 'Labour law, right to work, to whom?'

AEFTI Federation, that fights against discrimination and that supports quality training for migrant workers, organises a symposium on the 23rd November 2012 in Paris entitled: 'Droit du travail, droit au travail, pour qui ?' (Labour law, right to work, to whom?).



© AEFTI

For registration, please consult (only in French):

aefti.fr/colloque-droit-du-travail-droit-au-travail-pour-qui

27th to 28th November 2012 in Berlin: Lifelong learning through dialogue

It's organised by the German Ministry for Education.

18th to 22nd February 2013 in Paris: The UNESCO mobile learning week



© UNESCO

The main topic will be the different ways of access to education and how mobile technologies are useful for tutors and a good support for a quality education.

For more information:

tinyurl.com/unesco-mob-en



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