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MoLeYa (Motivating and Encouraging Young Adults to Learn) has its special focus on young learners with a lack of basic education. The reason to deal with this subject is the ongoing change in the social and economical structures of our society. The 21st century is characterized by the on-going change from industrial society to a "knowledge society".

The so called "up-skilling" of employees and therewith the trend towards higher qualifications is evident. The qualifications that an employee has is important for an individual to be able to compete in the European labour market. Hence, it is not surprising that the employees of the future will need good basic education and competence to be able to access the job market, as well as to participate in the process of lifelong learning.

But there are large numbers of functional illiterates and people without adequate education within Europe. Therefore it is not surprising that especially young adults, who leave school without a basic formal diploma or certificate, face disproportionately high levels of unemployment and social exclusion. It is unfortunately apparent that young adults with a lack of basic education are particularly difficult to motivate to participate in training and learning opportunities. The causes for this kind of learning resistance are multifaceted.

Furthermore lack of professional qualifications has a substantial impact on the individual, social and economic development of the people concerned, as well as on the economic development of the relevant countries in general. It is increasingly important, therefore, that young adults are supported to develop their literacy, language and numeracy skills.

The impact MoLeYa envisages is to inform and raise awareness of the reasons and the effects of the averting learning behaviour and the motivation problems of (young) learners facing illiteracy. Further, the project intends to improve networks between trainers, teachers, key persons, social supporting centres as well as education centres and

learners on a regional level and also at a European level.

MoLeYa aims to improve the learning conditions and the learning motivation of young adults facing functional illiteracy.

What's been done so far?

The first step has been a literature research on a transnational level to create a common basis for the further work packages. The literature research, performed by all partners, had the aim to answer the following questions:

- What is motivation?
- What factors help motivation?
- What factors hinder motivation?

The objective of the first question was to define and establish the scope of research. To answer the other questions it was necessary to do some research on different levels. Therefore the research concentrated on

- a) an individual, personal level (intrinsic motivation)
- b) a social level (living environment) and
- c) the didactical and methodical settings and arrangements established so far

A further challenge was to find these answers combined with the target group (young adults with functional illiteracy between 15 and 26 years).

The results of the literature researches were characterized by an unexpected high identicalness. The multifaceted term "motivation" has been discussed from different scientific based point of views. The conditions for learning motivation and adequate learning arrangements had been selected. Subjective factors who hinder someone's learning motivation in connection with the topic of compulsory school came into focus. Summarized it can be said that the available technical literature is all about the didactical and methodical setting, to get and keep people motivated.

Although it was hardly possible to learn more about the living environment of the target



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group as well as the individual and structural barriers and conditions they are facing.

Next steps

The results of the literature research were exchanged between the partners. The next step is to hold the narrative interviews with young learners with a lack of basic education. The target group of these interviews are people between 16 and 25 who are participating in a literacy course right now. Each partner is going to do five interviews, which make a total of 40 narrative Interviews to improve the knowledge about young learners needs. Aim of the interviews is to learn more about the motives, the barriers and the living environment of the target group.

The findings and gained knowledge from the narrative interviews are – among others- vital information for the expert discussion rounds. The expert discussion rounds are also going to be performed in every partner country and aim to receive awareness on other levels.

European trainers meeting – March 18-19, 2010 in Jena (DE)

The European trainers' meeting will ensure the exchange of knowledge and experiences about illiteracy and literacy courses in Europe. Thus shall support the exchange of experiences, the linking of Illiteracy organizations in Europe and increase cooperation and understanding.

Further information will follow soon!

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***All material and results will soon be available on the project website
www.moleya.eu***

***If you have further questions or you would like to receive further
information on MoLeYa, please do not hesitate to contact the project
partner in your country!***

We would be pleased to receive your opinions and recommendations!