

LOAC

Learning Outcome of Amateur Culture



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

LOAC

Learning Outcome of Amateur Culture

Progress Report

Public Part



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Executive Summary

1. Target audience of this interim report

This report addresses active in the European amateur culture sector both managers, board members, teachers, instructors, facilitators and other professional and voluntary staff as well as researchers, opinion formers and policy-makers in the field of voluntary culture and liberal adult education.

2. Project objectives and target users

The idea of the project is to promote a validation of amateur culture from the perspective of lifelong learning with the purpose to improve the learning quality and outcome of the voluntary cultural activities, and thereby to make them more attractive and transparent for the participants.

The main objective is first of all the development of two types of interrelated on line tools, one type for the learners' validation of the personal learning outcome, and another for the providers' validation of the organisational learning. Each type will consist of a series of Danish, English, Dutch and Slovenia editions used by the associations participating in the project. The second main output is the initiation of a transnational course programme for active in Europe's amateur culture associations, partly by a pilot Grundtvig in-training course and partly by a pilot Grundtvig workshop. The third main output is three English project publications. The first is the survey report on valuation of learning qualities and outcome in voluntary cultural amateur activities. The second is the Anthology on best practise with focus on the main aims of lifelong learning. The third is the Compendium of European week courses on validation of learning dimensions of amateur culture.

3. Participants involved

The project consortium represents significant umbrella organizations of amateur culture in each participating country. This implies a huge network and surface of contact, and thereby a potential strong impact of the project results on the activities of the voluntary cultural area. Furthermore the coordinator organisation has particular competences of project development and research in the field of liberal education and voluntary associations, and a strong network to academic expert on the topics.

4. Approaches used

The work programme includes a survey of learning qualities and outcome in voluntary cultural activities. The survey intend to firstly to achieve new knowledge of learning valuation, and secondly to qualify the online questionnaires in the two types of validation tools and the Compendium on Best practice of art based learning activities. The methodology of the validation is formed by a humanistic learning theory that defines learning as an interrelated unity of the three dimensions: Competence, knowledge and personal formation (Bildung);

5. Results achieved to date

The first two phases of the five phases of the project has been concluded. The survey of learning qualities and the guidelines for validation of learning outcome has been completed. The design of the questionnaires for the online validation tools has been clarified and the IT-firm is now producing the pilot editions of the two types of tool and their interrelations.

6. Plans for the future

In the third phase the pilot online tools will together with the Survey Report and Anthology of Best Practise be used and evaluated at the planned pilot Grundtvig courses in the spring 2011. After the final revisions of the online tools and the Reports, Anthology and Compendium in June 2011 the two last project phases with dissemination and exploitation will be implemented in Aug – Nov 2011.

7. Details of the project website.

The address of the website is <http://www.interfolk.dk/loac> - Here the Project is presented and the intermediary results are continually published and a range of the project documents can as pdf-files be read and downloaded.

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1. Project Objectives

The main objective is first of all to develop two types of interrelated on line tools for learning validation, one type for the learners' valuation of the personal learning outcome, and another for the providers' valuation of the organisational learning. This interrelated double tool will consist of a series of Danish, German, Dutch and Slovenian editions used by the four national umbrella associations participating in the project.

These interrelated two types of tools can validate the same learning process from two different angles. The learning providers, both as organisation and as teachers can compare the learners' outcome with the learning providers' objectives, and the documentation can improve the work with monitoring, quality assurance and management of the adult learning. The data will be saved at a common database by the same domain; and it means that the data can be used for research on several levels, from a single organisation, to a group of local associations or a group of thematic associations, to a national and most important to a transnational European level.

This network of national associations that uses the common transnational database can easily and by relative small costs be expanded with new umbrella associations from other European countries after the conclusion of the project.

The second main objective is to initiate a transnational course programme for active in Europe's amateur culture associations. An integrated part of the courses will be exchange of experiences regarding innovative products and best practise in different learning areas, including an introduction to the methodology and practical use of the personal and organisational valuation tool.

The courses are first targeting teachers, tutors, facilitators and other pedagogical staff by offering Grundtvig-in-training courses, and secondly targeting board members, leaders and other paid and voluntary active members by offering Grundtvig workshops.

The third main objective is to publish three English project publications. The first is the Survey Report on validation of learning qualities and outcome in voluntary cultural amateur activities including results of questionnaires and interviews in the partnerships associations.

The second is the Anthology of Best Practise with focus 1) on the main aims of active citizenship, cultural cohesion, personal fulfilment and employ-ability, 2) on a broader view on learning as composed of the three interrelated dimensions: competence, knowledge and personal formation, 3) on social inclusion of people of all ages, including those with special needs and disadvantaged groups, 4) and on improving possibilities of transnational European activities as part of the ordinary activities of the cultural associations.

The third is the Compendium on European week courses regarding learning dimensions of amateur culture and validation of the learning outcome, including annexes on announcements, management and economy.

2. Project Approach

The idea of the project is to promote a validation of amateur culture from the perspective of lifelong learning with the purpose to improve the learning quality and outcome of the voluntary cultural activities, and thereby to make them more attractive and transparent for the actual and potential participants.

The approach carried out

The first phase of the project includes a survey of learning qualities and outcome in voluntary cultural activities including results of questionnaires and interviews with leaders, teachers and participants in the associations of the partnership circle.

The methodology of the survey is formed by a humanistic learning theory, and the overall objective is to achieve new knowledge and reflexion of learning goals and learning valuation, which may qualify the tasks of clarifying

- the methodology and praxis of validation of learning qualities and outcome, which should be presented in the survey report;
- the guidelines for the online questionnaires in the two types of validation tools;
- the guidelines for the Compendium on Best practice of learning activities related to EUs main learning aims

The second phase of the project includes the development of the two interrelated tools for validation of personal and organisational learning and the preparing of the Compendium on best practise of learning in voluntary cultural activities.

The two types of tools can validate the same learning process from two different angles. The learners (students, participants, active) can validate their personal learning profile and outcome; the learning providers (leaders, teachers, facilitators, board members and other staff) can compare their learning objectives and priorities with the learners' actual outcome. This documentation can be of personal value for the learners and it can improve the learning providers work with monitoring, quality assurance and management of the learning activities in their organisation. These tools will validate the activities as learning activities and thereby bring new focus on amateur culture as an important area of learning. The validation data from the use of the two tools will be saved at a common database, and it means that the data can be used for research on several levels, from the classroom to the whole organisation, and from a group of local associations or a group of thematic associations, to a national and most important to a transnational European level. This network of national associations that uses the common transnational database can easily and by relative small costs be expanded with new umbrella associations from other European countries after the conclusion of the project.

The Anthology of Best Practice of cultural learning activities in the organisations of the partnership circle will focus on

- the contribution of the activities to the overarching aims of lifelong learning: active citizenship, cultural cohesion, personal fulfilment and employability;
- the significance of a learning outcome assessed by a view on learning as consisting of three interrelated dimensions - competence, knowledge and personal formation (Bildung);
- the promoting of social inclusion of people of all ages, incl. those with special needs and disadvantaged groups;
- the possibilities of transnational European cooperation as part of the ordinary activities of the cultural associations.

The Anthology will be published both as paper editions and as PDF-editions that can be distributed widely to a broad range of stakeholders and downloaded from common project website of the partnership circle.

The third phase of the project includes the preparing and completion of two pilot week courses respectively a Grundtvig in-training course and a Grundtvig workshop in the spring 2011. The two

courses will focus on validation of qualities and outcome of the art based learning in amateur culture associations. The content of the courses will include the use of the pilot tools for personal and organisational learning, the report on learning qualities and the Anthology of best practise.

The target groups are board members, leaders, teachers, facilitators and other paid and voluntary staff in the partnerships associations. An integrated part of the courses will be in dialogue with the participants to develop know how on the learning needs and priorities of possible target groups from the art based voluntary associations. The aim is after the conclusion of the project that the consortium can offer such week courses as part of the Grundtvig in-service training programme and the Grundtvig Workshop programme.

The fourth and fifth phases of the project focus on the dissemination, exploitation and follow up of the results of project.

The added value of the approach used

The approach used in the survey, the validation tools, the anthology of best practise and the pilot courses is referring to a humanistic learning theory that

- defines learning as an interrelated unity of the three dimensions: Competence, knowledge and personal formation (Bildung), and these dimensions are constituted by several main learning elements, and each element is described by a series of keywords;
- and value the learning outcome in relation to four main *spheres of life* as 1) an autonomous modern man in the personal sphere; 2) a responsible fellow human being in the private and civil sphere of close relationships; 3) an active citizen in the civil and public sphere in civil society and the public affairs; and 4) an employee in the work time (and as a student in a vocational qualifying education).

This view on the learning content and learning perspective are quite innovative in our point of view. Most actual valuation tools for non-formal and informal learning share a very narrow optic on the content and perspective of learning that reduces learning to transversal competences or to a combination of soft qualifications (transversal competences) and hard qualifications (knowledge and skills), but none of the tools we know of have a methodology that incorporate “personal formation” or “Bildung” as an important dimension of learning. The personality is more or less a blind spot in these instrumental oriented learning methodologies. Likewise the validation perspective on the learning outcome is typically reduced to the use in work life or the formal education, and the benefits for the personal, civil and public live spheres is also a blind spot.

This lack of “Bildung Theory” could be seen as a general problem for most learning validation, but it is especially a problem, when we try to validate the learning in voluntary and art based activities. Without Bildung you don’t find the nerve in the activities, and it will be difficult to convince the learners that the valuation tools have any relevance for them.

The approach of monitoring and evaluation

The tasks of coordination, monitoring, quality assurance and evaluation are closely connected in a well organised project. The 18 work packages correspond to the 18 main steps of the task plan, and each work package consists of a group of part tasks. In this work breakdown structure the completion of each work package constitutes a main milestone.

The monitoring of the progress of the part-tasks in each work package consists of two checks, partly a contact to the responsible partner/person a week before the starting date of the part task to confirm that the partner are ready for the task, partly a check a week before deadline on the progress and quality of the planned result. The evaluation consists of the final outcome evaluation at the end of the project, and process evaluations during the project’s progress. Process evaluation is an important session of each of the four partner meetings that allows reviews and adjustments of different parts of the project work. The quality assurance implies that the Steering Committee (the administrator and coordinator) can correct any deviation from the operational objectives, or implement contingency plans, if the responsible partner can’t or haven’t solved the task as agreed.

3. Project Outcomes & Results

The projects website has further information of the project, and here the intermediary results are continually published and a range of the project documents can as pdf-files be read and downloaded. The address of the website is <http://www.interfolk.dk/loac> - contact details of the partnership circle are presented below in item 4: Partnership.

Results /deliverable

In the fourth phase of the project we will in Aug 2011 publish the following three project publications:

- The final Survey Report on validation of learning qualities and outcome in voluntary cultural amateur activities. English edition. 60 - 80 pages. Publishing in print 900 items.
- The Anthology on best practise of the partnerships activities with focus on 1) the overarching aims of lifelong learning, 2) a broader view on learning including competence, knowledge and personal formation, 3) the possibilities of transnational European cooperation. English edition. 60 - 80 pages. Publishing in print 900 items.
- The Compendium on European week courses on learning dimensions of amateur culture including validation of personal learning outcome for learners and organisational outcome for leaders and organisers of the activities. English edition. 30 - 40 pages. Print 900 items.

The reports will be published both as paper editions and as PDF-editions that can be distributed to a broad range of target groups and downloaded from the project website of the partnership circle.

We will also in August 2011 launch the series of the two integrated tools for validation of personal and organisational learning in four language editions in respectively English, Danish, Dutch and Slovenian, which are presented at the websites at the four project organisations.

The dissemination and exploitation strategy and activities

The results of the project will in the fifth and last phase be disseminated to the main target groups including

- the broad network of art based member associations of the partners' umbrella associations,
- the related associations of liberal adult education and voluntary associations in the civic society,
- the decision-makers and opinion-formers of the sectors of voluntary culture activities and liberal adult education, and
- the wider public of lifelong learning with relation to culture and art, including the area of formal education.

The dissemination activities include

- 1) Production of information material in national language on the publications, tools and the conferences, August 2011 by each partner.
 - 2) Send out invitation to the conferences and information of the publications and tools, with links to the web sites, where the reports can be downloaded and the learning tools can be seen and used. August – September 2011 by each partner.
 - 3) The completion of three national one-day conferences presenting the results and perspectives in October 2011, by each partner
 - 4) Multiplication activities to the broad network of art based member associations of the partners' umbrella associations; by direct mail, newsletters, articles and announcements in member magazines etc. Sept – Nov. 2011 by all partners.
 - 5) Mainstreaming to the press and decision-makers and opinion-formers of the sectors of voluntary culture and liberal adult education; newsletters, articles to newspapers, magazines and academic journals. Sept – Nov. 2011 by all partners.
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4. Partnerships

The strength of the Consortium lies in its being made up of both research organisations and umbrella organisations operating at regional, national and international level, and therefore being able to carry out all the activities envisaged.

The European added value derives from the project having many institutional links and such a wide scope in surveys and development tasks regarding the European tendencies in validation of non-formal and informal learning in voluntary associations and amateur culture.

The partners in the project have by exchange of experiences and cooperative task fulfilment already gained new knowledge and widened perspectives on the subject addressed and experienced a significant increase of contacts and networking opportunities.

The Consortium is made up by the following organisations:

Kulturelle Samråd i Danmark / Joint Cultural Councils in Denmark

Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society

Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti / Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities

Kunstfactor, Sectorinstituut Amateurkunst

Kulturelle Samråd i Danmark (Applicant) - See www.kulturellesamraad.dk

is the National association of the local cultural councils, which are umbrella organizations for local associations within the area of culture and leisure-time activities. Cultural councils exist in approximately 90 of Denmark's 98 municipalities. The main purpose of "Joint Cultural Councils in Denmark" is to inspire and develop the cultural area, and to influence, initiate, debate, exemplify etcetera in order to create the best possible conditions for all cultural learning activities. "Joint Cultural Councils in Denmark" are on a national basis working closely with the rest of the cultural voluntary associations.

Role in the project:

As the applicant organisation Joint Cultural Council has particular tasks regarding legal and financial management and quality assurance, and Joint Cultural Council has extended tasks regarding the first partner meeting in Denmark, the Compendium on best practise and the Grundtvig Workshop pilot course, and similar tasks as the other partners on the rest of the work packages.

Contact person:

Bente von Schindel, General Secretary, MA (Nordic Literature and Rhetoric)

(+45) 29647040 * bs@kulturellesamraad.dk

Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society (Coordinator) - See www.interfolk.dk

Interfolk is an Institute for liberal education and voluntary associations. The objectives are to promote popular enlightenment and active citizenship in the context of liberal adult education, voluntary associations and cultural activities in the civic society. The activities may include research, surveys and development projects, seminars and debate, and other cultural activities in Danish, Nordic, European and broader international context.

Role in the project:

As coordinator Interfolk has particular tasks regarding project steering, monitoring, quality assurance and evaluation, and Interfolk has extended tasks regarding the partner meetings, the documentation survey, and the development of the framework and content of the valuation tools. On the other side Interfolk has fewer tasks regarding the pilot courses and the conferences of the exploitation phase.

Contact person:

Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, Head of Institute, Ph.D. (History of Ideas)

(+45) 51 300 320 * hjv@interfolk.dk

Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti (Partner) - See www.jskd.si

JSKD is a national institution covering all branches of amateur culture and art: vocal and instrumental music, theatre and puppet, folklore, film and video, literature, fine arts, dance. JSKD main tasks are: Organization and offering of cultural events; Preparation of seminars, workshops, lectures, summer camps; Counselling, supporting, informing; Publication of periodicals and other publications; Joint financing of cultural programs.

JSKD headquarters in Ljubljana and fifty-nine branch offices all over Slovenia with about 100 employees (organizers, experts, technicians) stimulate the development of Slovenian amateur art. JSKD organizes international, national and regional programmes of education, presentations and reviews of non-professional culture and art. JSKD is a member of European umbrella networks ECuCo and Amateo and international organisations of music, theatre, puppet theatre and folklore such as Europa Cantat, IFCM, CISM, AITA/IATA, CIOFF etc.

Role in the project:

JSKD has extended tasks regarding the third partner meeting in Slovenia, the pilot Grundtvig in-training course, and similar tasks as the other umbrella associations on the rest of the work packages.

Contact person:

Marjetka Turk, Assistant Director for General Affairs
(+386) (1) 241 05 24 * marjeta.turk@jskd.si

Kunstfactor, Sectorinstituut Amateurkunst (Partner) - See www.kunstfactor.nl

Kunstfactor is the national Dutch institute for the development and promotion of amateur arts. As such the centre has expertise in the fields of voluntary arts development, management and education as well as in that of arts education per se. Kunstfactor is responsible for various training and learning curricula, used inside and outside of educational centres, as well as for training modules for volunteers who are active in the field of the amateur arts. Kunstfactor is constantly looking for ways in which cultural and artistic competences can be acquired and acknowledged. It is one of the founders and partners of the Standards and Accreditation Centre for Amateur Arts and Arts Education in the Netherlands.

Role in the project:

Kunstfactor has extended tasks regarding the second partner meeting in Utrecht, and pilot Grundtvig in-training course, and similar tasks as the other umbrella associations on the rest of the work packages.

Contact person:

Wies Rosenboom, Head of Office staff and Dance and Writing, MA Sc (Drs.)
(+31) (0)30 711 5140 * w.rosenboom@kunstfactor.nl

5. Plans for the Future

The consortium represents significant umbrella organizations of amateur culture in each participating country. This implies a huge network and surface of contact, and a potential strong impact of the project results on the activities of the voluntary cultural area.

From the point of view of dissemination, project partners will continue to use their own network and professional affiliations to make known and attract more users for the project outputs. Significant in this purpose are going to be presentation of project results in the framework of events organized by project partners or by their member organisations.

The long term objectives are that the results of the project will be incorporated in the future activities of the participating organisations and in some degree will be transferred to other European organisations from the field of amateur culture.

The new integrated online tools for validation of personal and organisational learning in voluntary cultural activities can after the conclusion of the project be used by organisations related to the project consortium, and the tools can easily and by relative small costs be provided to other European organisations working in the field of voluntary culture and art based learning.

The objectives of the pilot Grundtvig courses are that the partnership circle after the conclusion of the project on a regular basis can provide in-service training on validation of learning in amateur culture, both in a national and European context, especially by providing courses as part of the Grundtvig in-service training programme and the Grundtvig Workshop programme.

6. Contribution to EU policies

In relations to the broader objectives of the LLL-Programme this project addresses especially the following points,

- a) to develop the quality of lifelong learning (in amateur culture);
- b) to support the realisation of an transnational area for learning;
- e) to promote creativity;
- f) to offer meaningful and joyful activity for many elder people;
- h) to develop innovative ICT-based tools for valuation of learning outcome;
- k) to encourage the exchange of best practise on transnational courses.

In relation to the specific objectives of the Grundtvig Action this project aims,

1. to see the challenges of an ageing population from a perspective of educational policy rather than culture policy.
2. to value the cultural activities from the perspective of learning quality and outcome

In relation to the operational objectives of the Grundtvig Action this project aims

1. to offer short courses by the partnership targeting both pedagogical staff, board members and other active;
2. to improve the quality and to increase the volume of cooperation;
3. to integrate the exchange of best practise in the common course programme;
4. to save the data of the valuation tools on a common database, which open for transnational research tasks;
5. to improve the monitoring, quality assurance and management of the adult learning.

In relation to the priorities of the Grundtvig multilateral projects this project aims

1. to develop tools with focus on transversal competencies and self-confidence;
 - 2, to oblige the learning needs of teacher, trainers and other staff;
 3. to motivate individual learners by offering transparency and documentation;
 - 4, to improve the validation of non-formal and informal learning outcomes;
 - 6, to strengthen the teaching and learning in later life
-