Communication and
Education by Transmedia
International Congress I 20-22 April 2016
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Erasmus+ project 2014/2016   Code: 2014-1-E501-KA201-004478

Girona, April 2016

"Transmedia: a new narrative that involves communication and education towards the future classroom"

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Abstract

"Transmedia: a new narrative that involves communication and education towards the future classroom" (COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION BY TRANSMEDIA-CET, as short name) is an Erasmus+ Project shared by four secondary schools from Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Romania, one primary school from Cyprus, one Teachers' Training Centre from Portugal and one university from Spain. The partners have been chosen very carefully as all of them have to offer a significant addition to the project. They have all worked together before in various and different ways and that assures for a cooperative, group work performed in the best way. From the lower levels of education to the highest, the scale covers all aspects and all views of the project.

Transmedia, is a project about new technologies in the school, about the best that these technologies bring to the schools and about the problems that the schools have to solve when they are not used in the proper way. In general, the project addresses the question of using technologies in school curriculum in the best and safest way, the creation and implementation of the appropriate tools to do that, the problems with licensed software and their availability to the schools and families of minor opportunities, either economical or social. We aim to lower the gap between education and technology, to engage our students in learning by using the technologies used outside school but in the best way possible. Most importantly, we aim to show that the concept of transmedia can be used in all subjects of the curriculum, horizontally and transversally, for a more holistic approach.

Objectives

The project includes a number of products: first of all, a scientific research, in order to clarify the situation in the schools on how technology is used, in what way and in what extend.

We will also create two decalogues for classroom use and for dissemination to our school networks that involve the proper use of Internet and the policy that covers the use of technology.

Four different seminars, concerning the aims of the project, will be offered to teachers and students and the participants will receive a Europass Mobility document for their participation.

A MOOC course will also be offered on line.

All our products will be uploaded to the Web page and Apps that we will create and they will be available for free under the Creative Commons license for everyone to use without problems with copyrights. We will adapt all the products to the needs of primary and secondary schools and in seven different languages.

Our proposal states that local communities, through students and parents, will benefit from the experience

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gained by the Organizations, as information providers. They will get a better knowledge of the law and policy concerning the use of digital material on the Internet, by improving habits and respecting legal procedure on how to use or not material made by others. Authorities will be more involved and the young, future labor community will have an ethics code when entering any working environment. Furthermore, the project will provide support in achieving a European area of lifelong learning through transmedia at the regional level by improving the relations of partnership at European level and by increasing the multilingual European society model in the local community. Last but not least, the schools will gain the access they need to engage and personally motivate each student in the learning process which only positive results may bring.

Development

The project includes a variety of objectives and activities. All activities and material production will be shared by all the members. Each partner will be the coordinator of a work in progress, but it doesn't mean that they will be the only ones working for it: everything we will produce will be with the participation of each partner.

• The school INS Palamós (Spain), as applicant organization, will be involved in the coordination of each product and activity we will produce. INS Palamós will have, at least, one teacher participating in each product or activity. The INS Palamós will be responsible to translate all the documents and products into Spanish and Catalan.

• The University of Girona (Spain) will conduct the research that will extend during the two years of the project, dealing with it from the beginning until the time of the publication of the conclusions at the end of the project (with the participation of the secondary and primary schools). The Apps will be developed together between the University of Girona and the department of computer of ITI Galileo Galilei and the department of computer teaching of INS Palamós, and checked by the participation of teachers and students from the rest of the participating schools.

• The school ITI Galileo Galilei (Italy) will coordinate work products related to the use of new communication channels that these tools offer and production compendium of best practices. ITI Galileo Galilei will host in Livorno a seminar for students and teachers about "e-safety Internet and good practices with social networks". The ITI Galileo Galilei will be responsible to translate all the documents and products into Italian.

• The school B. P. Hasdeu (Romania) will host in Buzau a seminar for students and teachers about "Opened tools in Internet". With that course we will show how to use new free software in accordance with the most needed tools in the daily activities in the school, under free license. The B. P. Hasdeu will be be responsible to translate all the documents and products into Romanian.

• The school PAGKYPRIO LYKEIO (Cyprus) will host the Seminar and workshops about MOOC course "Transmedia: a new narrative that involves communication and education towards the future classroom". This will be one of the final products we will have at the end of the project. Here the students and the teachers participating will test on the morning the modules of the course, and on the afternoon they will share a workshop to discuss about how to improve it. PAGKYPRIO LYKEIO will be responsible to translate all the documents and products into Greek.

• The school DROSIA (Cyprus), as the only primary school in the project, will collaborate in the research with the University. DROSIA will be the partner who will adapt all the materials to the primary school levels.

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DROSIA will be responsible to translate all the documents and products into English. DROSIA school will collaborate with PAGKYPRIO LYKEIO to organize the Seminar about the MOOC course.

• The Training Centre of Caldas da Rainha (Portugal) will coordinate along with the University of Girona, the production of the on-line courses and the pedagogical products. The Training Centre will have the pedagogical committee to check the quality of the pedagogical products. They will participate in the organization of the on-line courses. The Training Centre will be responsible to translate all the documents and products into Portuguese.

On May 2016, the meeting will take place in Girona and there will be the time to check everything we will produce and to find the best versions for all the products. This meeting with the coordinators will be just before the start of the International Congress "COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION BY TRANSMEDIA". This will be also be the time to publish the journal Communication Papers, which will publish a special issue with the research conducted as well as the products and conclusions. It will be the time to present our MOOC course and all the small products we will produce.

As for the activities that we will be supported by the Project Management and Implementation grant, we suggest that all our "small scale products" can be funded by this grant. With small scale we refer to products that are mostly suitable in class work for a small amount of time, maybe some periods of the curriculum. These products involve the two Decalogues we will create and their dissemination to other schools in our regions, each school in its own language. The Decalogues, in the form of triptychs, will be printed by professional printers on glossy paper and be sent to the schools as posters or samples that can be also downloaded and printed from our web page.

From the same grant, we plan to pay for phone calls, formal invitations to guests invited, promotional pens or folders that can advertise the project, office organizational materials and last but not least, to pay for the transnational meetings hosting expenses.

Conclusions and prospective

One of the most important goals of this project is to produce materials, courses, training seminars and even an International Congress at the end of the second year to sum up and present the project's outcomes. For this reason, from the very beginning, the applicant organization and the partners were looking for the best way to make sure that the quality of the products but also the process of developing them, will be the best.

The fact that in the project there is one University and one Teacher's Training Centre, would be enough to monitor the evaluation of the work. But we thought that the best was to have external organizations who will evaluate the process and the final products.

In this way, the University of Girona will create a scientific committee to control the quality of the research; the scientific journal "Communication Papers" has its own scientific committee who will check the quality of the documents we will publish in a special number/issue on May 2016, with the results of the research, some articles and the products we will elaborate. The Training Center will have a pedagogical committee to evaluate the content of the courses and materials we will produce and the learning/teaching/training activities.

With these three organizations controlling the quality of the project's activities and products, and with the experience of the professionals involved in the project from all the partner organizations, we are sure that the quality of the project will be guaranteed.

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The coordinator will ask for one report each trimester. The agenda of the activities includes some meetings and one of the objectives of the meetings is to evaluate the products produced or will be produced. The representatives of the University of Girona and the Training Centre CFAE-OESTE, will evaluate the quality of the products. These materials, before being published in the Website and by the Apps, will be tested by our students from primary and secondary schools. After to correct the weak points we will send them to the scientific committee and/or to the pedagogical committee, to inform them about the completed works of the project and ask about their opinion.

Questions and/or considerations for discussion

From Comenius to Erasmus+... what have we got, what have we lost?