DIGITAL DANUBE second course ERASMUS+ K1

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Mobility Report

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The study visit to the partner institution Open University Zagreb took place according to the schedule enclosed. Therefore, I am not going to enumerate the topics dealt with. Interesting for reporting are also additional activties, our impressions, conclusions and ideas inspired by this visit.

Asist. Prof. Dr. Tihomir Žiljak started by introducing us to the story of the premises, different co-laborators and above all to the history of the institution which is important for the institutional continuity and the tradition as a permanent source of of knowledge but also for understanding the roots of the current orientations.

While in Slovenia teachers from the Department of Andragogy, Faculty of Philosophy founded Slovenian U3A, the situation in Zagreb was different. At the turn of the 19th century Dr. *Albert Basala*, a philosopher member of Academy of Arts and Science, founder of the Croatian Music Association, of Matica Hrvatska, and socio-cultural animator was highly interested in educational issues and particularly in the destiny of philosophy in school. »Primum vivere, deinde philosophari« claimed *Basala* stressing that philosophy asks questions like "What can I know? What do I have to do? What can I hope for?" By no means philosophy is merely a theoretical science far from life.

Education should be socialized and democratic, as many people as possible should have access to education not only the social elite. Education for merely higher social classes means that the gap between them and the lower ones becomes even bigger. *The differences existing between social classes are not due to what they have but to their education. Extending education to all social classes is a basic task preventing social clashes.*

In the second half of the 19th century different associations started delivering lectures, establishing libraries, publishing newspapers, those who attended lectures were introduced to important social and State administration issues, political, economic and social issues were discussed. To this end a *University extens*ion was created. Basala recommended that lectures should not be free of charge but at a reasonable price. Education should not be transformed into "having fun "and mere satisfaction of curiosity and paying a small fee for the lecture is therefore necessary. Lectures should not be limited to one hour. There should be cycles of a t least 6 hours of lectures. Lecturers should take time to learn from students etc.

In 1907 University extension was created, after the Second World War *Radničko sveučilište*

Moše Pijade, forming not only students but also excellent experts in andragogy, who in their turn created *Zavod za andragogiju* (Institute for andragogy at Open university) then a *department for andragogy* at the Faculty of Philosophy Zagreb (Pastuovič, Špan). Prof. Maja Špan also founded Zagreb U3A initially modeled on the Slovenian Third Age University). Andragogic schools in Poreč, Umag were established.

Prof. Tihomir Žiljak amply introduced the participants to vocational training and its role, to its 300 programmes and to the numbers of students (15000 per year our of which some 1000 students are enrolled at the Third Age University).

Vocational and general education are being combined at Open University Zagreb.

Cultural education encompasses modern dance, painting, rock music, etc.

Library is open to all ages, but older people represent 92% of all visitors.

Conclusion:

(1)*Time should be taken to introduce Slovenian U3A's visitors to the premises, mentors and co-laborators as well as to the history of the institution and the theoretical background of its establishment.*

(2) An article will be written on Albert Basala and his socio-cultural endeavours for Andragogic Perspectives. His ideas about the role of education in society will be compared with Nicolas de Condorcet's ones etc.

(3) Vocational training programmed could also be a source of inspiration for U3As
(fashion photographer, sound engineer, art therapist etc.)

Tihomir Žiljak showed us to the part of the building where exhibitions are held (in the corridors accessible to everybody) where were some pieces of furniture purposefully designed for the needs of adult education by arch. *Bernardo Bernardi* We were impressed by the *Gallery Bernardo Bernardi* and a huge low round table uniting students and teachers sitting in inclined armchairs.

We were further impressed by the modernist building (Dutch Bauhaus style) designed by Radovan Nikšič, offering ample space to education, autonomous learning in library and in corridors. Meeting points (café) and benches all over the building for discussion, etc.

Art and cultural exhibitions all over the building were noticed which confirmed our own beliefs that culture should be accessible to everybody and that culture dignifies life. Creative workshops have a clear social dimension, encouraging learning strategies.

In the department of vocational training several books and monographs were published in very much the same way as at Slovenian Third University.

Formal and informal education are being combined art.

The Zagreb U3a publishes Treča mladost twice a year (by students).

Conlusion:

(1)An interesting research /project topic would be describing the furniture, form and functions, of single European adult education institutions and their furniture.
(2)Cultural events, exhibitions could be planned for each year and contributed by students.

(3) Not only bread but also milk could be studied with all the stories and remembrance around it. Industrial production of milk etc.

We attended "The grain of wisdom" which is cycle of lectures. The lecture delivered was on Montenegro and it was delivered by a group of U3A students. The cycle of these monthly lectures is also monitored by a voluntary retired adult education specialist.

Conclusion:

We could continue organizing such lectures and events since our experience with Srečanja v kinu (Meeting in cinema) monitored by our students and mentors have proven to be welcome.

Other valuable impressions:

Language learning is digitalized as well as other educational topics. *Imovie films* are produced by lecturers to finish off their lectures and they seem to be particularly appreciated. Different channels are used in language and other topics teaching. Camera is used. Film shots are analyzed thus triggering learning and building awareness. Free dictionary is being used . Museums are visited on a regular basis, guidance is organized in foreign languages for foreign language students. This used to be our practice too, but it seems that the quality of language students are expose to in this way is usually not appreciated

Different films were produced accompanying European projects. A Christmas film on Christmas customs has been produced by students upon the mentor's initiative.

 (Diana Bebek Miletić, Neva Klaić)

Each U3A needs a broad background as a resource. In the case of Zagreb U3A these is rich vocational education delivered at Open University, accredited programmes.

Conclusion:

(1) Slovenian U3A has been creating, and should intensify, its resource background through its mentors and their activities in other institutions and through creating permanent co-operation with other institutions, especially public and NGO's and generally by being involved in local development which is less the case of Open University Zagreb.

 (2) We thought Slovenian Third Age University could organize a cluster of programmes requiring manual skills: Creating decorative ornaments and objects, etc.

Ivan Struklec introduced the audience to the story of digital courses and learning at U3A Zagreb and we were enthusiastic about the structure of the presentation and the theses the lecturer developed on the basis of his empirical observation.

He dwelt on the importance of concepts and principles, of acquiring the language of computering. "How could students ask for help, if they did know how to name things?" he said.

Writing is important, using the programme Word or Word pad.

Creating greeting cards.

Banking.

Chat.

Google account.

Dealing with photos. How to place photos in the Dropbox etc.

Students have a Gmail address. Students have created their own Facebook page.

They are introduced also to the computer ethics.

Blog writing, webpages creating.

Common Facebook for all students created by students of informatics.

Further, we were introduced to the **international co-operation** of the Open University Zagreb: EAEA. DANET. AIUTA, Croatian Andragogic Society, Community of Croatian open universities,

and t**he past or current EU projects:**

Café Zagreb - Café Gesprache Frankfurt for volunteers. A Croatian U3A student, a medical doctor delivered a lecture on prevention in Frankfurt. A film on Glagolica was maded and screened.

ELLAN. Training of professionals dealing with older people. The number of new professions in the field has been increasing, most of the new professions being devoted to the 4th age.

Interesting was **Lifelong Listening** for those who are deaf or have reduced hearing ability

CLIC . A project on cooking combining language learning, intercultural learning etc. We agreed that this topic shared learning does not yield good results.

DIGITAL DANUBE, the project meeting in Sofia was also discussed.

Conclusion:

Education for professionals could be reintroduced.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

It was nice that the ve of us could be visiting our partner institution. This gave us a possibility to share impressions and discuss them on the spot. The project gave us time enough (in lecture rooms, at the guided tour through Zagreb, over organised meals) to discuss the topics that had been planned and to learn a lot more in different ways. We are convinced that some of the ideas will be applied and respected in our own institutions, additonally new project ideas were born. We were confirmed in some of our beliefs as to the future orientation of Slovenian U3A. We would like to thank our Croatian colleagues for the effort and impressive professionalism they put in the preparation and implementation of this project meeting.