Dear Reader,

This is the second issue of our newsletter for project “Thinking outside of the box”. Please, have a look on our newsletter and join us in the discovery of possibilities with creativity!

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The 3rd meeting – Tartu, Estonia

The aim of the 3rd meeting of our project was to examine best practices and methods, new approaches of learning and teaching creativity. We just had the perfect environment for that in greening and blooming Tartu, early May.

There Triin Hannust (Head of Institute of Psychology at our host institution, University of Tartu) made us aware of the fact: so many times we only use routines because we’re used to it and either lazy to change or don’t even think about the possibility of changing; also sometimes we do follow out-dated routine which need to be revised time to time. With that in mind we had exercises to widen our horizon, among which we had a very interesting session where we all brought our own practices from each institution in action – by used each other as students. Later we have visited the Centre of Creative industries of Tartu, where talents can find their space and possibilities to start their own company by participate in exhibitions, workshops and sales. We had a tour around the complex and we have seen very different types of startups: from clothing design through graphic design, also comic art, even community-space design... all in one place. One of the advantages of the centre is the different startups can help each other in-house.

Also we had a trip to Viljandi, where we had an insight of an afternoon of the art section of Tartu University, followed by situation- and mind-games in spring forest “how to open our creativity through acting” by Katrin Nielsen, drama teacher of Viljandi Culture Academy. Those activities were very inspiring how one can change the point of view in situations and come up with interesting solutions.
Our ways

On the very last meeting in Estonia we have spent one of the workshops with sharing our examples of bringing creativity to the classrooms. Each of our partners brought a task which we shared in action – used each other as a student.

For teambuilding

The Danish team brought their task which they use in the very beginning of their semester called “silent building”. You can use that method even with a very large group by dividing them to smaller groups. The teams need some good amount of paper, tape and scissors, and they have to build the tallest tower they can, but they are not allowed to say a word nor write to each other. It can but the groups together very well, and will be fascinating to see how the groups handle the situation and what they will create under the given circumstances.

For getting informed

“Gallery walk” method from the Finnish team meant to be a very interactive way of gather information and learn from each other. During that students are working in smaller groups, where each group works on a given topic and they make a poster to sum up the knowledge they have gathered. Each group work on different topics, but all the topics are a part of bigger picture. After the teams are done, they hang their posters and they need to be re-grouped on a way by each group has at least one member of the previous groups. These new groups start a walk around the posters, and the ‘expert’ (the one who has been part of the team which has prepared the poster) “teaches” the others and opens up discussion. When a signal is given from the teacher, the groups move to the next poster, where the next ‘expert’ will share the information the group gathered, and so on until all the groups get to all the posters. At the end the teacher can make a conclusion by all the work the groups have made. The advantages of this method are that participants equally responsible for the whole group’s learning and participating; everybody is equal in the group; develops performance and discussion skills; possibility to physically move around the room (kinaesthetic learners).

For memorizing
If you want to monitor how much your students can recall after a bigger module before closing it, but you don’t really want to use a test, the “Easther egg hunt” practice of the Spanish team can be used very effectively. During this, students work in smaller groups too. When one group comes to the teacher, they will get a clue related to the chosen topic. If they can answer correctly, they will have another clue which leads the group to the hidden object (the Easther egg). This method is good for a little team-building, for refreshing what they have learned, and also a make the group move a little which also helps in concentration. Before the start, the leader / teacher have to prepare with getting the questions / clues ready, also hide the little eggs around (possibly out of the classroom).

For getting new ideas

If you think slightly differently of something, you can have very interesting ideas out of the group. In our case, we had to design a car – for women. In a group of 4-5 people it is interesting to think of something which is very ordinary for us from a slightly different point of view. This task usually appears during marketing students’ training at the Hungarian institution.

For exploring

Giving an extraordinary task for your group just for 20 minutes will twist your group up for sure. Our German partners challenged our creativity with science: we had to build an engine out of the items they gave to us; a Duplo chocolate, a magnet, an AA battery and a screw... It was really a challenge to all of us.

Hope you’ll find some ideas you can use!

We’re on halfway

We have reached the mid-term of “Thinking outside of the box” already this summer. That means each of us had to submit an Interim Report to our National Agency (NA) – which we did successfully.
The NA of the leader institution of the consortium gave a very positive feedback on the progression of the project. As they summed, the partnership works intensively both during and outside the meetings: the project meetings been held were effective and meaningful, also they encourage the effort to involve a more broad audience through Facebook and the blog with regularly updated content.

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**Good practise**

Our NA, Tempus Public Foundation held a workshop for dissemination in early September, in order to help project coordinators how to strengthen the communication of their ongoing projects. Head of Marketing Institute of Budapest Collage of Communication and Business, Dr. Árpád Papp-Váry was invited to give a presentation in that matter in the morning session, where he spoke of the power of good communication, projects as brands and how to deliver the message of your ‘brand’ successfully. Project “Thinking outside of the box” has been mentioned as a good example, where we are mixing regular and web 2.0 tools to reach as wide audience as possible.

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**Interested?**

Please, join us and share Your ideas with us!

- on Wordpress ([grundtvigtoob.wordpress.com](grundtvigtoob.wordpress.com)),
- on Facebook ([TOOB – Thinking Outside of the Box:](https://www.facebook.com/groups/503539026329292/))