

# *Grundtvig Project:* ”Educ-Arts”

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## Ancara-Turkey: 12 to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### **Participants:**

- **Gecko Arts and Media UK.** Mr Mike Owen
- **LC Educational Cyprus.** Mrs Fiorentina Poulli
- **Ankara Akademi Sanat**

### **Opening Discussion:**

There was a clear sense at the meeting that as the second meeting this was a point where elements of the project could be refined and moved forward. However there was a concern expressed about the small number of participating partners being in attendance. Also this report is essentially a ‘minority’ report because of the lack of attendees.

There was an understanding that the decision taken at the first meeting on the locations for the meeting would provide a proper framework at which the project could be progressed and that these were agreed by vote.

There was confusion expressed at an ‘alternative’ meeting as this appeared to be outside the terms of reference of the project.

There was a definite feeling that the meeting timetable should be adhered to with all the participating partners being represented as long as their mobilities allowed this.

### **The Aims of the project**

It was felt that it would be helpful to run through the aims of the project and an extensive discussion took place about the target age group for the project and what this meant. As a result it was clearly felt that there were in the 50 + market some clearly defined groups defined by age, social status and general health. They also represent a significant part of the community and increasingly large in numbers with a particular financial status. Further integration and engagement is still vitality important for the health of the community as well as the country as a whole.

### ***Group One***

This represented probably the youngest and fittest group. This group will include women who may have brought up families and given up a career and may be looking for opportunities to engage in education or activities that may be new to them. Similarly there may be men in this age group who have given up work or retired or made redundant who equally would look to engage in new educational experiences or activities.

### ***Group Two***

This might an older age group of individuals who had become disassociated from their families by death, distance or disagreement and who would benefit from engagement in community activities to substitute for their lack of social, familial activity. It was stressed that cultural practice varies from country to country. It was felt that in Turkey it was the family's job to engage the older generation however in the UK the elderly do become disassociated from family and tend to continue to live alone while they are physically able.

Nonetheless this group would benefit from the kind of activities discussed and are often active in their communities through volunteering or charitable work. They may also find the activity could enhance their opportunities if they wish to move back into the job market.

### ***Group Three***

The elderly living with family who may well benefit from activities that take them out of the family home. An important group where activity outside the home may be beneficial to their family as well as the individual

### ***Group Four***

Those living in some form of shared accommodation. This will vary from the perfectly healthy to those with varying degrees of difficulty - physical or mental. It is important for the community to look at means of engaging this more marginalised group in activities.

This provided a framework for discussion and illuminated the work described by three of the participants that showed how activity and engagement could take place.

### **The Presentations**

Each member gave a brief presentation on the aims, objectives of their company in general and in respect of the project.

### ***Ankara Akademi Sanat : Turkey***

The Akademi gave a presentation of their event with people in a 'Care Home'. The venue was obviously the home itself while the residents were a varied group with various health or mobility issues.

The session was designed to enable the group to engage in physical activity that used music and dance as a stimulus.

The organisations representatives were looking at a way that this activity could be expanded in regular sessions that motivated the individuals. Without doubt the residents could be seen to be enjoying the experience and benefitting from the interaction.

### ***Gecko : UK***

Mike Owen showed two presentations that showed how the world of art and culture was used to engage and stimulate life in the community.

The first was a presentation that showed how certain areas of the city of Birmingham were engaging the community by using local history and stories linking with libraries and using children to stimulate ideas with the elderly engaging in telling their stories. This was part of the Arts Champion project to utilising storytelling, music, drama and oral history

The second was a project where the Birmingham Opera Company took a musical programme with one of their leading singers to different venues – in this video a centre for the homeless and a care home for dementia sufferers. The aim was engage a disadvantaged audience with arts and cultural activity.

### ***LC Educational Cyprus***

Fiorentina Poulli showed a sequence of pictures which demonstrated how they creatively engaged their group with the Limassol Festival.

Here, along with 100 other groups, their group included people of a range of abilities and capacities devised a wedding theme and costumes were created for the procession. The aim was to reinforce the sense of tradition and inclusion.

The event gave the opportunity to discuss and develop possible themes and then create relevant costumes. The photographs showed the group led by the ‘wheelchair’ bride as they processed through Limassol.

Other business

- AAS is looking to have an EVS accredited programme.
- The Facebook on Educ-arts needs to be updated
- Pictures of the event have been taken and downloaded by AAS.
- There needs to be a confirmation of the specific dates to ensure everyone can be represented and ensure a good representation.