International Workshop: Higher Education
24 May 2011
International Workshop on Information Literacy Policies: Methodological Aspects

International Workshop: Adult Lifelong Learning Sector
27 May 2011
The workshop’s target groups were the stakeholders of adult education, who are the decision makers on the Continuing education, Librarians, General Secretaries of Ministries, Presidents of the Board of professional organizations, Presidents of the Board of relevant to LLL organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, university professors, and LIS professors.

International Workshop: Vocational Education
30 May 2011
The Importance of Information Literacy in the Vocational Sector

International Workshop: Schools Sector
8 June 2011
Information Literacy Development in the School Sector

Final Conference
9 -11 February 2012, Ghent, Belgium
Literacy and Society, Culture, Media and Education
27 - 29 February 2012, Milan, Italy
EMMILE (European Meeting on Media and Information Literacy)

Details and information on past and incoming events can be found from:
http://empat-ic.eu/eng/EMPATIC-Events

MDR Partners is a leading specialist partnership working together with libraries, archives, museums, information providers, and other organisations in the education, culture and e-government sectors. Its services include research, consultancy, training, project management and implementation, service development and technical support.

Ceris Institute for Economic Research on Firms and Growth is a research institute within the Italian National Research Council and articulates into a main office in Turin and two research units in Milan and Rome. The research activities of the Rome unit are focused on “Research and Scientific Information Policies”. More specifically, within the research activities of the Rome section a research line is focused on Information Literacy educational policies.

Jagiellonian University, Institute of Information and Library Science is a part of the Faculty of Management and Communication, the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. It is a leading research and teaching institution, specializing in problems of contemporary librarianship and information work.

Technical University of Crete (TUC) is an institution of higher education with high emphasis on both teaching and research. Of major interest for the EMPATIC project are the activities of the Data Analysis and Forecasting Laboratory.

The Turkish Librarians Association was established in 1949. Today it has 39 branches and over 1500 active members. The mission of the Association is to contribute to the development of librarianship and library and information services in Turkey.

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EMPATIC (Empowering Autonomous Learning Through Information Competencies) aims to achieve a significant impact on validating new learning paradigms and strategic thinking on curriculum reform by drawing together and valorizing the results of previous Information Literacy initiatives and projects across the school, university, adult and vocational learning sectors and using this evidence to influence policy makers’ perceptions and actions to support a marked increase in piloting and mainstreaming of Information Literacy.

Information Literacy is a vital component of the future development of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented European Information Society. A society in which everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge - enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life. It is a key competence that underpins many, if not most, of the EU’s most important objectives and strategies, including i2010 and Education and Training 2010. It is therefore important that progress is made in all Member States and that expertise can be pooled and used to create maximum impact right across the EU.

However, the potential of Information Literacy remains largely unrealized within mainstream learning systems in Europe:

- curricular integration at all educational levels is comparatively rare;
- significant barriers inhibit its integration within curricula including: relevance and appropriateness of syllabus content;
- lack of awareness of the relationship with ‘neighbouring’ disciplines and approaches such as computer literacy, media literacy, digital etc literacy;
- negative stakeholder perception of the learning achieved;
- lack of competence by teachers;
- concerns over suitability for adults.

The main activities of the project have been structured into work packages as follows:

1. Desk research
2. Dissemination
3. Quality assurance and impact
4. Strategic modelling
5. Validation
6. Resource development
7. Exploitation strategy
8. Project management

As fitting for a project focusing on exploitation of results 5 of the 8 work packages focus on dissemination and exploitation. The project started with a period of desk research designed to:

- arrive at a practical definition of Information Literacy and an assessment of current thinking on its role in learner performance and learning outcomes at each level of education, taking into account the findings of LLP projects and other European initiatives;
- assess to what extent Information Literacy efforts are being employed within mainstream education;
- identify best practices in schools, higher education, adult and lifelong learning and vocational educational bodies in formal and non-formal education settings.

EMPATIC aims to provide innovative solutions by:

- taking a political approach to Information Literacy for the first time. Focusing on policy makers as the key actors who can bring about change and convincing them that Information Literacy is a vital component of the future development of a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society;
- effectively exploiting the results of previous research in Information Literacy for the first times;
- making the lessons learned and techniques developed by campaigners in other fields accessible to support and encourage advocacy by practitioners and others on behalf of Information Literacy.

The ambition is that EMPATIC will pave the way for the extended piloting and eventual mainstreaming of information competencies in all levels of education and their integration in the reform of curriculum frameworks.

View EMPATIC reports at: www.empat-ic.eu/eng/Reports