

Ibis Creative Consultants Ltd

34 Collingwood Road, Sutton, SM1 2RZ, UK



Grundtvig Project

DESSDYS

Development of Study Skills For Dyslexic Individuals

STUDY VISITS

INTRODUCTION

Although the original proposal for the project included a study visit to England, it was decided at the first meeting that there were sufficient similarities in the English and Northern Ireland contexts to suggest that there was little purpose in having similar study visits. Furthermore, unlike the Northern Ireland partner, Ibis is not a large institution. Therefore it was considered that Belfast Metropolitan College should be the centre for the study visit to the UK, and Ibis could facilitate a series of other visits that could have a significant impact for partners on their understanding of the support of the dyslexic individual in the UK.

It was with this intention that Ibis created and led a number of smaller Study Visits which are reported here.

STUDY VISIT TO ENGLAND - BF Edu

Visit to the British Education and Technology Show (14 January 2010)

The British Education and Training Technology Show (usually know as just BETT) 2010 was held 13-16 January 2010, at Olympia London, UK. It's not only Britain's biggest educational technology show, it is the largest in the world, with over 700 exhibiting stands and nearly 29,000 attendees. It is the showcase for thousands new and not so new products that are principally designed for the UK market, but often can be used in other countries, either directly or with local variations.

The purpose of Blue Fountain visiting the show was for the technical director, *Gabor Gyorfi*, to see what was currently available, and what had potential for the Hungarian market. The show gave a focus for discussions between Blue Fountain and Ibis. These discussions helped to formalize some of the components that went into the Study Skills book. There were also plenty of opportunities to network, both with those with exhibition stands already known to Ibis (e.g. British Dyslexia Association, Microlink PC and Iansyst), as well as others of interest.

STUDY VISIT TO ENGLAND - Dyslexia Association of Bulgaria

Visit to the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) (8 October 2010)

The Dyslexia Association of Bulgaria had expressed an interest in visiting the premises of the British Dyslexia Association in Bracknell, Berkshire, and networking with their staff. Although they had been introduced previously to several staff members, they had not had the opportunity to discuss aspects with front line workers in key areas. The areas of interest were the support Helpline, run by volunteers. The way this was developed over the years, the monitoring of calls, the funding, and the advice given were all of interest.

Publications were also of great interest. It was not so long ago that most of the BDA information leaflets were photocopies of texts. Now, with additional funding, the BDA was able to have a more professional finish. DABg was interested in what were the popular titles, who wrote them, and how they were sent out. It was also interesting to see the relationship between paid publications and those available online.

The DABg were also keen to understand the funding sources, and the proactive way that BDA address the fundraising efforts.

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Meeting in Sutton (Ibis Creative Consultants Ltd) (morning 9 October 2010)

Sutton is the base for Ibis Creative Consultants Ltd. A meeting was held to discuss dyslexia assessment tools, and how they could be best adapted for the identification of the dyslexic individual in Bulgaria.

A visit was also arranged to Sutton Centre for Learning Adults (SCOLA), and review support for the dyslexic individual, as well as Sutton Public Library, to identify what books were generally available for parents, teachers and dyslexic individuals to help understand their difficulties, as well as about Study Skills.

Visit to the Institute of Education (UCL) bookshop (afternoon 9 October 2010)

There are many publications about dyslexia in English. However, unless you can see the printed version, it is very difficult to make decisions about what is worth buying, or approaching the publisher to translate and adapt into Bulgarian. Therefore a special trip was made to Waterstone's in Torrington Place, London, which is the bookstore that serves the Institute of Education for University College London.

STUDY VISIT TO ENGLAND AND WALES - BF Edu

Visit to the Dyscovery Centre, Newport (11-13 March 2010)

Following various discussions around the subject of comorbidity (when more than one learning difficulty appears) it was decided that the best way to understand the issues was to make a Study Visit to a top UK centre.

The Dyscovery Centre was set up over 13 years ago in response to a lack of co-ordination between health and education providing services for children and adults with developmental disorders (e.g. dyslexia and dyspraxia). During this time it has developed into a specialist and high quality service providing clinical services, undertaking research, providing consultancy services and training at all levels from awareness raising courses to Masters degree level.

The inter-disciplinary team helps individuals with living and learning difficulties, such as Developmental Co-ordination Disorder, Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Asperger's Syndrome.

A meeting was held with the Centre director, Professor Amanda Kirby, followed by a tour of the Centre and discussions with staff members.

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Study visit to University of Wales, Newport (10-13 June 2011)

Participants:

Dr Ian Smythe, Ibis Creative Consultants Ltd

Anna Győrfi, BF EDU

Gabor Győrfi, BF EDU

Programme

This 2 days meeting was dedicated to dissemination of project results and ensuring sustainability through cooperation with other dyslexia related organizations and EU funded projects.

On the first working day a study visit was made at the premises of the British Dyslexia Association in Bracknell, Berkshire, and networking with their staff. The special area of interest for BD EDU was to learn best practices about dyslexia-related services and resources made available through the internet.

On the second working day we paid a study visit to University of Newport and met Dr Mike Reddy and his team, whose field of expertise is development of educational games. The University is involved in EU funded and other types of dyslexia related projects, and areas of cooperation was explored.