

Fondazione Padre Alberto Mileno Onlus

Centro Studi sulla Dislessia e le DSA

Viale Dalmazia 116

66054 Vasto Marina CH



Grundtvig Project

DESSDYS

Development of Study Skills For Dyslexic Individuals

STUDY VISITS

23 October 2009

and

31 May 2011

Vasto, ITALY

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these study visits was to provide the partners with an opportunity to network with Italian teachers, psychologists, speech and language therapists, parents and dyslexic individuals. The secondary intention was to provide an opportunity to share the products of the project, and gather feedback, in order to make final adjustments before the end of the project.

The final conference on 31st May 2011 was held in Foundation Father Mileno Onlus (Vasto), Italy, with invitations sent out to targeted key individuals in the area. In order to ensure their interest and participation, the partnership also delivered a conference that would be of interest to the audience. The Conference Programme was as follows:

Study visit on 23 October 2009

After the meeting activities the partners visited the “Study Center for Dyslexia and SpLD” of PAM Foundation in Vasto. They met the head medical doctor Benito Michelizza and visited the structure composed by various locations for individual training and group learning. Then they met some of the specialist and talked about some patient history and cases. This led to a theoretical-practical discussion with a huge exchange of knowledge between the Dessdys partner and the Foundation PAM specialists about the dyslexia related issues.

Study visit on 31 May 2011 and Final Conference

In the morning we presented to the partners the operational tools created and used by the Foundation which reflect a range of activities covering the needs of screening, diagnostic and needs assessments, rehabilitative and educational options.

In this regard, videos are presented to support educational activities and notes for the rehabilitation of reading and writing skills in the adolescent-adult.

In addition, we presented the guidelines by which operators of the Centre act in terms of contents and methods in the aspects of counseling to parents and teachers.

Final Dissemination Conference on 31 May 2011

14.45 Registration

15.15 Welcome

15.30 Presentation of European DESSDYS Project

Alessandro D’Alessandro (Foundation P. A. Mileno onlus)

15.45 Good study skills – Factor for successful learning

Daniela Boneva, Elena Mihova (Dyslexia Association Bulgaria)

16.00 Computer games in language teaching for dyslexic students

Anna Gyorfi (BF EDU – Ungheria)

16.15 Dessdys project impact

Binnur Kucukyildiz (Turchia)

16.30 Conclusions about DESSDYS

Domenico Passafiume (Foundation P. A. Mileno onlus)

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Welcome

The Welcome introduction was provided by the moderator who introduced and thanks those attending for their support during the project, and for coming to this conference / workshop. Some of the key players were duly noted and acknowledged.

Project DESSDYS

Alessandro D'Alessandro (Foundation P. A. Mileno Onlus) provided an overview of the project, including www.dessdys.eu website, e-book, guide for tutors and templates for key tasks. He presented the main objectives of the project, and the activities realized in order to achieve them in partner countries, and particularly in Italy. The importance of the project ideas was highlighted; the satisfaction of the results was expressed.

Good study skills – Factor for successful learning

Daniela Boneva (Dyslexia Association – Bulgaria) provided an overview of the topic about Study skills, what do we include in this category and how good study skills can affect the students' achievements and results. Based on this understanding a set of Templates has been developed in order to help students in developing/improving their study skills. They were accomplished with instructions how to use. All the Templates are free available on the project website and can be downloaded from there.

Computer games in language teaching for dyslexic students

Anna Gyorfi (BF Edu) shared her experience in teaching technologies for dyslexic learners. She focused on learning foreign languages using assistive software and other resources on-line. That's why Dessdys is so important and the impact can be really considerable, because it brought up the idea about the importance of the study skills development.

Dessdys project impact

Binnur Kucukyildiz showed how the Dessdys partnership strategy involved a close cooperation at European level to review dyslexia provisions and distil best practice to meet the user needs. She talked about the aims of the dissemination activities:

- To raise awareness of the project and publicize its activities, particularly project outcomes.
- To provide a mechanism to leverage individual efforts at international and transnational levels

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- To identify, define and undertake exploitation activities which will be beneficial to the professionals and learners

She finally highlighted the main achievements of the work done in the past two years.

Conclusions and Q & A Session

A plenary session was held, where members of the audience were able to put questions to a panel of Italian specialists and international project partners.