



Grundtvig Project

DESSDYS

Development of Study Skills For Dyslexic Individuals

Dissemination Report

DISSEMINATION STRATEGY of DESSDYS PROJECT

Dessdys Project has been engaged in the dissemination of new products, materials, and good practice at learning to create an effective dissemination strategy. Through this project, It is hoped that, developed materials and products offering potential solutions particularly for dyslexia problems, will maximize their chances for effecting a real change in educational practices and widen their impact overall.

We think that it would be more functional to consider Dissemination Activities in three different ways.

- Dissemination for Awareness
- Dissemination for understanding
- Dissemination for action

Dissemination for Awareness

We wish people to be aware of the work of DESSDYS Project. This will be useful for the target audiences such as public authorities, policy makers and the general public; they may not require a detailed knowledge of our work but it is helpful for them to be aware of our activities and outcomes. Creating such an awareness of our project's work will help the "word of mouth" type dissemination and help us build an identity and a profile of DESSDYS Project within our communities.

Dissemination for understanding

Students, adult learners, parents, school counselors, teachers and special education specialists are the main groups that DESSDYS Project target directly with its dissemination. It's important that these groups have a deeper understanding of DESSDYS Project to benefit from the products that the project offers for them.

The aim of the project is to provide resources to dyslexic individuals themselves directly to ensure that they have an opportunity to develop learning skills independent of the external support. In the first phase of the project, based on user needs, a website in partner languages, a study skills e-book, a tutors' guide and a study skills template were developed.

Seminars, conferences and workshops were held to share papers on work in progress. They were the most effective ways of disseminating findings and provided help for stimulating ongoing interest in the work of DESSDYS Project

Dissemination for understanding were tried to be realized through the strong communication and greater involvement of our target groups which will provide us the greater impact.

Dissemination for action

Involvement in both of these two stages will provide the basic structure for dissemination for ACTION. Action refers to a change of practice resulting from the adoption of DESSDYS Project products and materials. Dyslexic individuals will need to be equipped with the right skills, knowledge and understanding of the project work in order to achieve a real change in their study skills.

Assistive technology offered by DESSDYS Project will give chance to dyslexic learners usage of simple and colorful dyslexia friendly techniques and conditions for better learning.

Conclusion for Dissemination

The entire dissemination strategy of this Grundtvig Partnership will provide a base to allow the DESSDYS Project speaks for itself even beyond its lifespan.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES of DESSDYS PROJECT

Dessdys partnership strategy involved a close cooperation at European level to review dyslexia provisions and distil best practice to meet the user needs. 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
- To identify, define and undertake exploitation activities which will be beneficial to the professionals and learners

Further details may be found within the activities of each partner.

Diversity of Activities

Each partner addressed dissemination in a manner that was most appropriate to their specific national, cultural and linguistic environment. Activities included:

- Brochures, leaflets, posters, etc.
- Partner website
- Dessdys website
- Mailing/emailing addressed to particular targets.
- Newsletters and magazines.
- Regional conference/seminar for launching the project.
- Meetings, informal meetings.
- Press releases, articles
- Professional Fairs.
- Partner networks.
- Blogs.

Dyslexia Association of Bulgaria - Bulgarian Dissemination

The following summarises the principle dissemination activities of the Dyslexia Association of Bulgaria. As a dyslexia association, their primary role was to distribute to those working in the field of dyslexia, primarily in Bulgarian but also to others across Europe.

Dyslexia association of Bulgaria organized 5 workshops for 45 SEN Specialists, 60 students, educational psychologists, 20 vocational school headmasters, 20 speech therapists, 26 education professionals and 20 teachers.

4 conferences were held with the contributions of Bulgarian Ministry of Education, research centers, training centers, universities, psychologists, psychiatrists, teachers, parents, employers, NGO representatives and local media

13 meetings realized in different cities of Bulgaria. 5 international meetings in different cities of Europe involved participants with variety of occupational backgrounds from England, Hungary, Turkey, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Belgium, Latvia, France and Finland.

5 articles for the regional and national newspapers about the Dessdys project objectives, activities and products were published. There were several occasions when Dessdys project was mentioned in Radio and TV interviews for the regional and national radio and TV programs. The most important activities (the start of the project, results of the Pilot testing, the International conference were announced on the Municipality's website. Leaflets, newsletters, flyers were delivered during all organized events and also the association's website provided a base for promoting project and to inform the public.

As a result of the Interim report sent to the National Agency, the project Dessdys was chosen amongst the best proejects to be presented in the Compendium the National Agency issued every year.

Blue Fountain - Hungarian Partner

The following summarises the principle dissemination activities of Blue Fountain. As the Hungarian partner, their primary role was to distribute across Hungary.

Hungarian partner of Dessdys Project took part in the organization of 4 conferences with the contributions of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, PhD students, NGO representatives, teachers and parents.

Bf Edu, participated 3 workshops and international meetings with researchers, PhD students, NGO representatives dyslexia support professionals, teachers and parents.

Bf Edu provided lectures for PhD students and dyslexia researchers in philosophy, psychology, and applied sciences departments in University of Economics.

Web publications for teachers, articles for national magazines

The project was included in an international dyslexia report for the European Parliament.

Fondazione Padre Alberto Mileno - Italian partner

The following summarises the principle dissemination activities of Fondazione Padre Alberto Mileno. As a regional dyslexia centre, their primary role was to distribute to those in the Abruzzo Region.

Fondazione Padre Alberto Mileno Onlus coordinated all the project activities during two years and provided promotions through its website for the ongoing activities

Foundation prepared articles and conduct interviews to introduce project outcomes for newspapers radio and TV channels. Thanks them for hosting a successful conference and two international project meetings.

Belfast Metropolitan College - Northern Ireland Dissemination

The following summarises the principle dissemination activities of Belfast Metropolitan College. As a major adult education college, their primary role was to distribute among the dyslexic students in its college, as well as ensure wider use.

Belfast Metropolitan College developed a "tutor's guide" and organized meetings for the staff, managers and students. College also conducted a survey with lecturers and students

One of the main aims of this project is to provide resources to dyslexic individuals themselves directly to ensure that they have an opportunity to develop learning skills independent of the external support.

Ibis Creative Consultants Ltd - England Dissemination

The following summarises the principle dissemination activities of Ibis Creative Consultants Ltd. As an organization that operates internationally, their primary role was to ensure dissemination across Europe.

Invitations were made to present the Dessdys Project to four EU dyslexia related project partner meetings. Countries represented in those projects (excluding partner countries) were Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The book will be of use to students in countries where it is necessary to have English in order to enter university.

2000 project postcards were produced which were distributed at many meetings and conferences.

The project was included in presentations at two international conferences (European Dyslexia Association and BDA International Dyslexia Conference), many small conferences and workshops across Europe, as well as during an international webinar.

The project was mentioned on the Ibis blog (Technodys)

Ibis has a newsletter to over 700 individuals across Europe. The project was mentioned on several occasions.

The book has been adopted by Sutton College of Learning for Adults as part of their dyslexia support system, thus ensuring sustainability.

The project was mentioned in two books (Dyslexia in the Digital Age, by Ian Smythe and the BDA Dyslexia Handbook) as well as several articles.

The Dessdys book was reviewed and adopted by a number of institutions in England, Wales and Jersey.

İzmit Guidance and Research - Turkish partner

The following summarises the principle dissemination activities of İzmit Guidance and Research. As the Turkish partner, their primary role was to distribute across Turkey.

In order to build an identity and a profile of Dessdys Project within our community, İzmit Guidance and Research Center organized two big conferences with the large group of participants that were about 350.

Participants included SEN specialist, psychologists, teachers, dyslexia supporting professionals and parents. Besides project partners, Turkey's well known dyslexia authorities and professors were the speakers and contributors in the conference.

Center organized several meetings for the educational and public authorities, policy makers and the general public in order to raise awareness about the needs of dyslexic individuals and the possible solutions that are offered by Dessdys Project.

Turkish Partner used its website to announce and introduce the project activities and outcomes, delivered printed materials, brochures, flyers to all the clients who applied to the center with dyslexia and ADHD problems.

The center organized 4 workshops for two separate groups of 34 school counselors to introduce the project products and conduct a pilot study.

Final Summary

If we need to count the people who met directly with the Dessdys Project, we may say well over 10000 in total. This is not the exact number but as can be seen from the activities in this report, we are really modest for mentioning it as only 10000.

Considering its multiplying effects and the variation of the target group of the activities, we can be optimistic about this mobility project has accomplished its mission about informing much more people about better opportunities for learning.

All the products developed in the project process and the dissemination activities will provide a strong base to allow the DESSDYS Project speaks for itself even beyond its lifespan, thus ensuring sustainability.