



FAIRnet




THE EUROPEAN FAIRSTART PROJECT'S NETWORK FOR
INFORMATION, COOPERATION AND EXPLOITATION

Supported by the European
Lifelong Learning Programme

Pilot testing of the FAIRstart Training Program

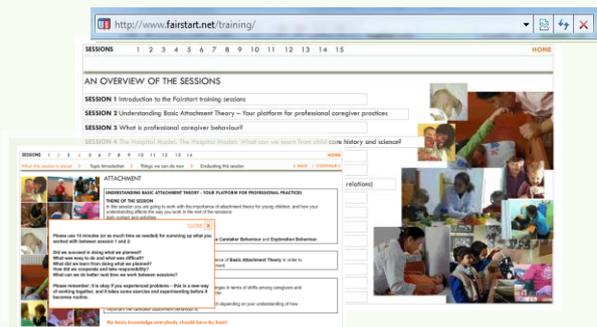
In June 2010 the FAIRstart project reached the exiting phase of testing the developed training program. The training program – consisting of the website, www.fairstart.net/training with 15 individual training sessions and a Handbook for instructors and leaders of institutions have been tested in five partner countries during July and August this year.

The test countries were Turkey, Romania, Spain, Italy and Cyprus.

The pilot testing has been carried out - and reported - with a special focus on the perspectives of the staff, instructors and institution leaders in order to achieve a solid basis for assessing the program's qualities in relation to five previously defined quality indicators. The testing was also carried out in foster families environments.

These quality indicators are: Accessibility, Recognisability, Involvement, Applicability and Flexibility.

The rationale for selecting exactly these quality indicators is:



Five quality indicators

1. **Accessibility.** Providing a net-based training program requires an easy access for the users when it comes to ICT facilities. Besides the content, the methods and the overall training arrangement must be easily accessible for all target groups involved – also in terms of clarity and understanding.
2. **Recognisability.** The FAIRstart training program must mirror staffs' daily care giving practise and challenges. That's why the training material is illustrated with videos and photos from each of the five national versions. It is a basic principle for the training program that staff should recognise their own practise, including resources, dilemmas and challenges in the training.
3. **Involvement.** The FAIRstart training program is a practise learning program based on a very high degree of participants' active involvement. They are co-developers. The didactic of the program is based on the idea that individuals very much profit from self- and group directed learning activities and not just by being taught by a professional.
4. **Applicability.** The FAIRstart training program aims at changing and developing child care institutions' practise by offering easy accessible, recognisable and involving knowledge and methods for the staff as well as for leaders, in order to improve the conditions for the children's attachment and learning abilities. The question of the training program's applicability as to a permanent focus on learning and development of practise is crucial.
5. Finally **Flexibility.** The FAIRstart training program must be easy to use in each child care institution and foster care environments, no matter the institutions' resources, organisation and aims. It must be possible to apply the program to the specific identified needs and aims for training and development in each institution.

Then, what was the result of the pilot tests?

Extensive testing reports from the five partner countries demonstrated a very positive assessments from staff, instructors and leaders of the FAIRstart training program as it had been tested in relation to specific identified needs in each institution.

Overall main conclusions as well as examples from each partner country were presented and discussed at the final conference in Istanbul, the 14th and 15th September.

Partners' test reports form a high quality contribution to the remaining and final adjustments of the FAIRstart training program as well as they provide the orientation for further development of methods for child care institutions' learning and development of practise: Because learning never ends!

The reports of the pilot testing are right now being further analysed. The final report will be available in the end of November 2010.



Continuing...



... Continuation

The FAIRstart conference

The FAIRstart conference was held in Istanbul, Turkey on the 14th and 15th of September.

Approximately 50 persons from 8 different countries participated, among whom there were representatives from educational institutions, childcare institutions, voluntary organizations as well as political decision makers and other stakeholders from the social and health care area.

On the first day of the conference there were presentations of the challenges to be faced in Turkey, Romania and Spain. All presentations indicated that there is a large need for education of staff working with orphans. All presentations from the conferences can be found on the project website: www.fairstart.net if you click on "Conference".

The training programme and material developed in connection with the FAIRstart project as well as the research base for it was presented by the project expert, and the project evaluator presented the results of the testing of the programme and the material in 5 different countries. The evaluation showed that there has been great satisfaction with the programme, and valuable proposals have been given for further improvements.

The project manager reviewed the project course and presented the plans for ensuring that the knowledge of, and the use of the FAIRstart material will be disseminated as widely as possible. An open session on dissemination and valorisation - which was also connected to this subject - fostered many concrete proposals.

On the second day of the conference two key-note speakers talked about the conditions of orphans and the future perspectives for their two countries; respectively Mr. Ph. D. Associate Professor Stefan Cojocaru from Al Cuza University, Romania and Mr. Abdullah Karatay, Doctor of Social Services from Turkey,



After that, the conference participants had the opportunity to participate in 2 out of the following 6 workshops: "Play the game" (the FAIRship game that has been developed in connection with the project), "Learning in practice", "Orphanages and migration", "Planning of joint action/event for November 20th, International Day of Children developing slogans, messages, posters, etc", "Theory and research in the FAIRstart Project", "Role plays related to the FAIRstart material".

The conference participants took part in the workshop with great interest and involvement and were very active and inquiring during the whole conference.



FAIRSTART CONTACTS →

You might wish to contact the project or the network on specific issues. You have the following contact options:

Project, network, coordination, information and contact to FAIRstart partners in the different partner countries:

International coordinator *Bodil Mygind*
sskaBMM@sosuaarhus.dk.

Training concept, research, professional knowledge:
 Clinical Psychologist, Dr. *Niels Peter Rygaard*
npr@erhvervspsykologerne.dk.

European program and strategic matters, media production:
 EU project manager and multimedia project manager *Jan Gejel*
jan.gejel@skolekom.dk.