
Listening to young children



NEWSLETTER 3/2011

September 2011



About *Listening to young children*

The “Listening to young children” project is pursuing:

- transfer and adaptation of learning solutions for vocational training in the educational sector based on innovative approach “Listening to young children” ,
- design and testing of a European course for teachers and trainers.

The project is aimed at:

- education sector trainers,
- professionals working directly with children aged 2-6.

The project has been funded with support from European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme and is planned for 24 months, from December 2010 to November 2012.

Project is implemented by consortium:

- Comenius Foundation for Child Development (Poland)
- Step by Step Program Foundation (Bulgaria)
- Society for the Development and Creative Occupation of Children (EADAP) (Greece)
- Institute for Language and Speech Processing "Athena" RC (ILSP) (Greece)
- ENOROS Consulting Ltd. (Cyprus)

While the Associated partners are:

- 2nd EPAL Aigaleo (Vocational High School) (Greece),
- Lions Infant and Child Care Centre of Strovolos Industrial Estate (Cyprus).

Planned tangible outcomes of the project are following:

- a multilingual, on-line course delivered by e-learning facilitating listening to young children by professionals.

Project news

- On 10-13 July 2011 second partners meeting took place. It was combined with workshop for trainers that are involved in working on e-course content. Thanks to the workshop, project staff learnt how to use e-learning platform designed by ILSP, in cooperation with EADAP. The meeting started new phase of the project: training of the trainers which will go on until the end of October. Next step will be diversification of educational material by uploading by trainers examples of good practices of listening to children.

Contexts

Getting to know more

- In September 2011 [*Final Report of CoRe Competence Requirements in Early Childhood Education and Care Research*](#) prepared on call of European Commission, Directorate-General for Education and Culture. The report presents formal and individual competences

of practitioners working with young children in EU and also identifies policy recommendations, in regional, national and European level.

Policies

- On 12 July 2011 the first draft of [Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the child \(2012-2015\)](#) has been released. The document points five strategic objectives: 1. Identifying obstacles, assessing needs and supporting implementation of standards; 2. Promoting child-friendly services and systems; 3. Elimination of all forms of violence against children; 4. Guaranteeing the rights of vulnerable children; 5. Promoting child participation.

The last one is supported by the view that “Children have the right to be heard and taken seriously in all matters affecting them, be it in their family or alternative care environment, in day-care and in schools, in local communities and national politics, in health care, justice, social services, and, last but not least, in policy-making at European and international levels (...)”.

The Council of Europe is going to promote this approach, among others, by: collecting, analyzing and acting upon children’s feedback and developing training programmes for education professionals on human rights (including children’s rights), on democratic citizenship, as well as on teaching and learning practices and activities that follow and promote democratic and human rights values and principles.

Practice

- How can we include children’s perspective in making real decisions? Alison Clark and Peter Moss in book *Spaces to play. More listening to young children using the Mosaic approach* (2005, London: National Children’s Bureau) describe how practically such a process could look like. They use a case of a preschool, where children below 5 participated in the process of adapting outdoor surroundings of the provision, together with practitioners, parents, planners and designers.

Contact

If you would like to find out more about the project or listening to young children methodology, contact project coordinator:

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Project website will be soon available at <http://www.welistenzy.eu>

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme.

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