



# Final Conference Report



# Digital Latin Quarter Final Conference Report

## Introduction

The Digital Latin Quarter Final Conference took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 at the University of Nicosia as part of the 6th Innovative Learning Environments Conference. The title of the conference was “21st Century Literacies: Reading, Creating, and Collaborating in Authentic Contexts” and it addressed teachers, academics, professionals, and anyone with an interest in how to engage learners and provide learning opportunities within authentic contexts.

In keeping with the DLQ implementation approach of embedded and enquiry based learning, the Conference was an invaluable opportunity to share the DLQ Story and present the key findings and project outputs to an international audience of more than 120 delegates.

In line with the overarching theme of the Conference, the core message was that 21st century skills are fundamental in preparing youth to enter a highly competitive and uncertain world. In addition to the traditional definitions of literacy (e.g. reading and writing), there is a whole new set of literacies that are important. New media literacies are skills that we all need to have, in order to function in the fast pace of our every-day life; they are competences that we need to have in order to become engaged citizens, workers, and lifelong learners. A few decades ago, a large number of media messages were produced and broadcast to millions around the world. Now, everybody can create media and messages and share them via the internet and social networks. Young people are no longer consumers but also producers of messages, which has potential ramifications on the aims of education and the skills needed in the areas of reading, writing, and new media literacies. From a simple Facebook profile to a video and interactive portal, all these new media provide opportunities for young people to engage with and create the story and perform in front of a large audience online or in a blended format.

The conference showcased two EU Lifelong Learning Projects, of which DLQ was one and a Learning Project supported by the Research Promotion Foundation in Cyprus.

- [Digital Latin Quarter](#) - Supported by the European Commission
- [Lifelong Readers](#) - Supported by the European Commission
- [Authentic Learning](#) - Supported by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation

# Conference Agenda

08:30-09:00	Registration & Coffee		
09:00-09:30	Opening Remarks		
09:30-11:00	<b>Project Overview &amp; Findings</b> -Digital Latin Quarter (DLQ) -Lifelong Readers (LiRe) -Authentic Learning  <i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>		
11:00-11:30	Coffee break & Poster session		
11:30-13:30	Specific project sessions		
	DLQ	LiRe	Authentic Learning
11:30-12:10	<b>Roundtable discussion:</b> A practical approach to integrating film and digital media in the classroom	<b>Roundtable Discussion:</b> Experiences & Conclusions after implementing LiRe in 6 European countries	
12:10-13:30	<b>Presentation of case studies</b> and project outputs by each implementing partner	<b>Parallel Workshops:</b> -Familiarizing children with library use & creating reading communities -Reaching disadvantaged students & multilingual families -Addressing boys' needs & enhancing parent involvement -Using ICT, the Arts, Sports, etc. to make reading visible & involve the community	<b>Workshop:</b> Incorporating authentic learning in teaching

Agenda

**Organisers**



**Co-Organisers**



**Supported by**



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Digital Latin Quarter (DLQ) - [project # 51853D-LIP-1-2011-1-06-GRUNDTVIG-GMP]

Lifelong Readers (LiRe) - [project # 518250-LIP-1-2011-1-CY-COMENIUS-CMP]

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## DLQ Conference in Images



Opening Address by Dr. Charalambos Vrasidas, Director of CARDET and Editor-in-Chief of Educational Media International

Dr. Vrasidas set the context for the Conference by introducing the concepts of New Media Literacies and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.

Following the Opening Address, Project Co-ordinator, Ms. Jennifer Land presented on the key themes, messages and outputs of the DLQ Project.



## Roundtable Discussions

The roundtable discussions introduced participants to the four implementation case studies from Ireland, Cyprus, Germany, and Lithuania and presented an overview of the rationale behind the DLQ project, as well as the project's main target groups and recruitment processes. Each project partner gave an overview of key activities they had implemented as part of the project; the outcomes of the training, the benefits and challenges they encountered as well as showcasing of videos produced by youth in each country.



## Workshop

Timesnap led an interactive workshop with 50+ participants bringing people through the train-the-trainer materials, introducing the ACT curriculum and addressing a number of concerns and fears of teachers in terms of the use of media and ICT in the classroom. The discussion centred on the application of such activities and the measures that teachers need to take in order to effectively integrate them in their classes.



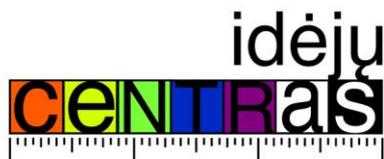
## Plenary and Q&A

Following the roundtable discussions and workshops, a short plenary Q&A session was facilitated with the audience and a number of recommendations, questions and validation was received.



Copies of the following presentations are available with this Conference Report:

- Project Overview by Meath Partnership
- Case Study and Outputs – Lithuania
- Case Study and Outputs – Germany
- Case Study and Outputs – Ireland
- Case Study and Outputs – Cyprus



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

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