

Newsletter n. 3 June 2015

Provisional version of Accessible English course; International conference on inclusion



During this period (December 2014 – May 2015) we made some important steps towards our goal.

We designed our English course for visually impaired operators in the sector of wellness, we shared our project in different local and international events, and the general meeting in Hamburg can be considered the most important milestone for our consortium.

Interactive course for spoken English.

Now a provisional version is available for internal use. This task was a very instructing opportunity for all of us to work in team in order to achieve a common goal.

Our experts in language teaching offered their competence in a specific domain, and they had to get to know both the terminology and the most significant communication contexts for the targetted group.

Users' associations described some important aspects concerning the contents of the course. They involved a representative sample of visually impaired persons employed in this sector, who provided precious information about their specific strategies for effective communication, including limits deriving from their physical condition which oblige them to renounce to eye communication; they described also possible compensatory strategies, in order to assure best possible effectiveness of communication between therapist and patient and vice versa.

Thirdly, our programmers could transform all informations and all suggestions coming from language teachers and from users' associations into accessible software. At present internal testing is still running, in order to be able to offer a refined version to our end users.

Main events

We have participated in the Erasmus+ Social Inclusion Conference – London - 5 December 2014. This conference is part of a Europe-wide programme of Transnational Cooperation Activities sharing best practice.

Organised and hosted by the Erasmus+ UK National Agency Ecorys, the event was open to delegates from the UK and all Programme Countries.

Main goals of the event, as declared by organizers, was to share lessons and expertise on this important subject between the educational sectors: youth, VET, adult and higher education, and schools.

The Conference focused on the recommendation of the Lifelong Learning Programme (precursor to Erasmus+) Inclusion Network, and the new joint Diversity and Inclusion strategy for Youth in Action, and consider how to absorb these approaches in Erasmus+ project implementation.

We believe that good practices in the domain of education and employment for visually impaired persons can contribute to better understand diversity in its essence, beyond specific situations, and above all can contribute to develop abilities to deal with diversity, transforming problems in opportunities.

Another important event for our consortium was the general meeting held in Hamburg on 15 and 16 April 2015.

Face to face meetings are always an opportunity for a communication in full immersion, where different languages can be used (including body language), and different communication contexts can bring to better understand others' problems, in order to find shared solutions.

In Hamburg we had the opportunity to refine our workplan and to find common strategies for coping with some critical points in our work.