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Ways of implementing game therapies in adult learning – Non-formal learning methods

International meeting and Workshop Booklet 4 - Summary

The 4th Transnational meeting was held in Athens, Greece by AMAKA. The Transnational Meeting was focused on IO8 – Ways of implementing game therapies in adult learning – Non-formal learning methods. Representatives of all partner organizations attended the meeting in person since this was not possible for some for quite some time due to COVID-19. This was particularly important for the quality of the project activities.

IO8 is an educational tool that facilitates change and development in a playful way. The goal of the IO8 is to help target individuals in learning new skills (i.e. communication skills, social skills, problem solving, conflict management, team work etc), how they can relate differently, what resources they have and use them in relation to being reintegrated in the society. IO8 should be seen as a new and creative tool for both the direct target group members and the experts working with them. The target group of the IO8 is therefore marginalized target group with high criminality risk of detainees, ex- detainees and addicts and professionals working with them. IO8 methodology is based on gamification. Gamification is a process through which psychologically motivating elements and mechanisms of a game are integrated in a non-game medium in order to make processes more interesting and effective. Gamification can be applied in several fields of life, e.g. at the workplace, in health service, in culture or education where gamified methods and developments can trigger significantly positive results. Using these modern tools the scope of educational tools and applications can be extended. Education and especially adult learning are extremely good fields for gamification to support student motivation, the learning process or as a help to combat learning difficulties. The mechanisms taken over from the game can support the acquisition of the learning material, interest can be maintained longer and gives a feeling of success for both students and educators.

The Transnational meeting involved project discussions regarding administrative, financial and dissemination tasks and multiplier event, short discussion of the finalization of IO6 as well as future steps.

Furthermore, presentations were made by experts external to the project. On the 7th of July,

Yiannis Nikolopoulos, actor/educator of Texnodromw presented the work of his organization with inmates, focused mainly around theater practices with a therapeutic benefit. Texnodromw is an NGO that uses theater methods in order to facilitate communication, exchange and change for those who have been marginalized or are at risk of exclusion. Partner organizations were particularly interested in these practices and the Yiannis Nikolopoulos shared case studies and videos of previous projects. An open discussion followed with questions and an exchange of techniques.

On the 8th of July the project partners had the opportunity to make a study visit to EPANODOS, which is active for the Social Reintegration of Ex-Prisoners which operates under the Supervision of the Greek Ministry for Citizen Protection. Partners had the opportunity to present our project, to learn about EPANODOS community services and to visit the transition type flat. This transition flat is aimed at supporting ex-prisoners in their transition between prisons and the community. Participants had the opportunity to speak with the service users of EPANODOS. This was the most interesting part for participants who were moved by Andreas' personal story of re-integration; him being imprisoned for a financial crime, how he was proven to be innocent later, how he managed to support his family, and how

Professionals who participated in the Transnational Meeting evaluated it highly. The highlights were the study visit and presentations of external organizations. The next Transnational Meeting is schedule for the 29th and 30th of September 2022 in Serbia (Subotica or in Palić) and the host and organizer will be Antropos Association.