



KCMEM

Key Competences and
Historical Memory

NEWSLETTER September 2015



The **KC-MEM** project started in January 2014 with the aim of developing an attractive educational approach for non-formal adult education based on the recovery of local memory. Based on the previous experience of the Sharing Memories at School project, **KC-MEM** is developing an educational project to be delivered by cultural organizations (museums, libraries), local authorities or civil society organizations.

The objective is that, through the recovery and gathering of local memories, adult learners develop key and transferable competences.

International training seminar

A one-day conference on New Approaches to Adult Learning in the Cultural Sector will be held in Leeds on November 17th, 2015, where **KC-MEM** partners will present the results of the project and discuss innovative ways to enhance collaborations between cultural and adult learning organisations. The conference will showcase examples of innovative adult learning partnerships from across the UK.

Pilot experiences

During the first semester of 2015, the KCMEM partnership has tested the methodology of the project in each country, which has given useful hints to design the final version of the teaching plan. Overall, the use of memory as a tool to carry out non formal courses for adults has been successful.

Check the following experiences in the 6 participant countries!

CYPRUS

The local Cypriot Educational Program titled “The cultural life of the people of Lapithos until mid-1970s: ‘teasing’ memory” gathered everyday memories of people who used to live in Lapithos area in Cyprus before the Turkish invasion.

A group of energetic and enthusiastic adults, five men and nine women between 46-66 years old, participated in the educational program. The Cypriot team (Frederick University) was thrilled with the participants’ high level of engagement, which continued throughout the program, during seven meetings.

During the first meeting, participants were introduced to the concept of memory, as well as how it is transmitted and constructed. As a group, the adults discussed and identified the thematic units such as objects in Lapithos, school time and people’s habits before and after the invasion, gastronomy, and folk art. They also decided to set up a website to share their experiences. The website will be shared with the municipality of Lapithos and the youth association of Lapithos, as well as anyone interested in exploring the work conducted: www.lapithosmemory.kc-mem.eu



A booklet, which will include material posted on the website, will be given to the participants as a gift. Object-based learning and dialogic learning proved to be the most fruitful methods. At the conclusion of the meetings, participants brought objects and shared their stories with each other. Discussions, presentations, and individual and teamwork were generated. Audio and video recordings were made in every seminar.

ITALY

In Italy the pilot experience was developed in Fanano Municipality. The region has been working on Historical Memory thanks to the Association “Gothic-Line, Laboratory of Memory”. The experience involved a group of four operators, members of the “Gothic Line” Association, who work on memory through the methodology of living diorama. They were all historians and researchers, a group of men from 40 to 54 years old.

In the first phase they worked on the concept of memory and the difference between history and memory. Then, they built the narrative of the places, through a comparison of memories in order to insert them in the historical context of the events. This allowed them to create a self-guided trail to discover important historical sites of Fanano, stimulating the active participation of adults and seniors and facilitating knowledge transmission between the participants and empowerment of their skills.

Using a map of the municipality, the self-guided trail was designed using techniques of Orienteering, taking inspiration from French Randojeu, and features historical places of Fanano linked to the IIWW.



In September 2015, the game will be presented and proposed to the citizens of Fanano, during which they could play to discover the places and the memories of the city. The group of participants has decided to offer this trail as a tourist attraction aimed at schools or groups, as a moment of playful animation, but at the same time also as a research program.

POLAND

The workshops “Taste of memory” took place in a beautiful mountain village in Łomnica-Zdrój. The main subject of the classes was the regional cuisine, and participants talked about food, but also customs and rituals, agriculture, farming and everyday life. Through the discussion, they tried to reach the memory of old tastes and memories of different generations. Overall, 30 recipes for local dishes were collected and old kitchen utensils were used as a vehicle to connect the memories. Other activities included organizing inter-generational workshops dedicated to decorate Easter eggs (pisanki) and a trip to the mountains to find old mineral water springs.



All classes were co-created by participants, and the Association for the Development of Łomnica-Zdrój and the Municipal and Community Cultural Centre in Piwniczna-Zdrój were involved in coordination and organization of the workshops.

On the basis of the workshops and discussions, participants realized that local traditions are very important for small communities and it is important to cherish them.

As a result of the workshops, a booklet about regional cuisine and an exhibition devoted to culinary traditions in Łomnica will be produced. There's also a plan to promote the project during the annual festival of local dumplings – Pierogi Łomniczańskie.

SLOVENIA

In Kranj, celebrations in the 20th century were the main topic chosen by 11 people involved in the educational project. Most of them were people aged between 50-70 years old, some retired but still active citizens.

Several cultural organizations from the region collaborated in the design of this course and participants were engaged and motivated from the beginning.



The main outcome was to educate learners about history, collecting historical materials and doing research along with IT knowledge development. They gathered the stories and objects about that topic using interviews, research in the library and visiting several cultural organizations with expertise in the field.

Then they put everything together into a newspaper, gaining new IT knowledge along the way.

Besides the newspaper, in September 2015 there will be an exhibition in Kranj City Library along with many relevant events in collaboration with cultural organizations of the region.

BASQUE COUNTRY

KCMEM was piloted in the Municipality of Segura, in June 2015, where 8 adults took part (3 women and 5 men), aged between 40 and 70 years old. The main topic of the course was the setting up of the first Basque school in Segura during the end of the Francoist dictatorship (1960s -70s). Among the participants, 2 former students and the first teacher of that school, some parents and collaborators enrolled to work with their memories.



Participants experienced the meaning of creating a common discourse based on a collective memory and sharing it in a creative way through a radio program. To prepare this broadcast in a regional radio station, they first learned the differences between history and memory and brought old pictures and documents to share their personal experiences.

After that, they interviewed relevant people involved in the creation of the first Basque school; and finally put together a common narrative to share the information through the radio.

In September 2015 a booklet will be prepared with the whole experience and shared with the inhabitants of Segura.

UK

The UK team worked with a group of fourteen adult learners looking at historical memory as it relates to the First World War. The group were mainly retired people, a mix of men and women. They met for two hours a week over ten weeks as part of the wider Community Programme run by a local secondary school in Yorkshire.



Participants had a visit to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds to look at material held in the museum's archive, view the galleries, and access physical objects relating to the war. The focus of the project was to look at why we choose to remember certain aspects about the war but not others, and see how that choice has been shaped by our communities and society. The project group worked in their spare time to create the content for an exhibition called 'Lest we forget?' which will be on display in the museum from November 2015 to January 2016 and forms part of the museum's 'Inspired by' programme.