

Newsletter 4

November 2017

This is the fourth and last newsletter of the DIMA project (A Toolkit for Developing, Implementing and Monitoring Adult Education Strategies). The main aim of DIMA project was to create a practical and innovative toolkit for developing, implementing and monitoring coherent and participative adult education strategies. This, in turn, will allow adult education providers and local authorities to actively contribute to national and EU adult education policies, increasing adult participation in education and training in a lifelong learning perspective. From the current newsletter you will learn about the final conference, the national multiplier events, the final meeting and the conclusions of the project.

DIMA Final Conference - Adult Education Policy & Practice: Gamification, Entrepreneurship Education, and Education policies

The DIMA final conference, held in Nicosia on the 13th of October 2017, has focused on Adult Education Policy & Practice: Gamification, Entrepreneurship Education, and Education policies. The purpose of the conference was to familiarize key stakeholders with the key aims and objectives of the project and to present the main outputs and relevant research in the area of Adult Education. The final conference was successfully attended by more than 150 people with representatives from Ministry of Education and Culture, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, policy makers, adult education providers, universities, school professionals, social partners and NGOs active in the field of adult education.

The DIMA Conference was declared opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culutre, Mrs Egly Pantelakis and presentations were made by the project partners and key note speakers from the partner countries. The first session of the conference was introduced by Dr. Charalambos Vrasidas, CARDET-UNIC and Dr. Niki Papadopoulou-Papa, Head of the European and International Affairs, who presented the main aim, objectives and rationale of the project. After that, the key note speaker, Michael Kenny, Maynooth University, provided a thorough analysis of the "Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities of Adult Education in Europe". The second session of the conference was a panel discussion about "Reflections on Policies, Issues, and Challenges of Adult Education". Partners form Ireland, Cyprus, Slovakia, and Slovenia presented their national strategies and policies as well as interesting case studies.



After all the presentations, parallel workshops and discussion groups were conducted. Participants had the opportunity to engage in workshops related to Cost Effectiveness, Adult Education for Professional Growth, Adult Experiential Learning on Ethics in the Social Media etc. The conference was a unique opportunity for all the stakeholders in the field of Adult Education to come and discuss together about the best practices and main challenges in the field.

4th Project Meeting in Cyprus

On the 12th of October 2017, the fourth and final meeting of the DIMA project took place at University of Nicosia. Important issues such as the dissemination of the project and several project management and financial issues were discussed in detail. Additionally, the consortium discussed about the final conference, the last details on the national seminars for multipliers and the evaluation of the project. Lastly, Francesca Operti, the EAEA project manager,



organised a brainstorming session to address the issues of dissemination and sustainability in the framework of the DIMA project. Partners were asked to reflect upon their strategies in reaching the DIMA target groups. Partners shared their implemented activities as well as their plans for the future. They got inspired by others' methods and tried to brainstorm on how to transfer them in their respective countries. Afterwards, the consortium was asked to discuss how the different target groups can benefit from the project outcomes and which kind of messages partners should use to convince as many stakeholders as possible to exploit the project results.

National Seminar for multipliers in Slovakia

The National Seminar for multipliers in Slovakia was focused on the "increasing of the motivation of individuals to participate in adult learning". The first part of the Seminar was focused on the recognition of the non-formal and informal learning outcomes, which was presented as one of the key "issues" or "challenges" which was identified within the DIMA project in the survey conducted under the intellectual output 2 - "needs assessment at national level". The second part of the Seminar was focused mostly on "the tools for the educational institutions to deal with the education of adults and increase their motivation to participate in adult education". In this part of the Seminar the participants were informed about the summary outcomes of the DIMA project, about the outcomes of the implementation phase of the project, including the presentation of the recommendations of Slovak stakeholders in regard to the DIMA project (the outcomes of the intellectual output 7). The participants of the Seminar also became familiar with the practical side of the Toolkit and e-learning modules, because in the second part of the Seminar they got a practical overview on how to create their own strategy in adult learning.



National Seminar for multipliers in Slovenia

On 13th of November 2017 the National Seminar for Multipliers took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. As the first act of the event was the welcome speech given by Andrej Sotošek, the director of the SIAE. He outlined the importance of the DIMA project and its great potential for further development and exploitation in various fields of publicly regulated activities. After that, Mrs Margerita presented the main characteristics of the project with basic data on participating partners, intellectual outputs and outcomes. After Margerita's presentation, following the schedule, the floor was taken by Peter Beltram who presented the DIMA Toolkit in details: its structure and all 9 modules with main content descriptions. Furthermore, a presentation was followed about the operational features of the toolkit. After that Peter went through two modules, the 1st (What is policy) and the 6th (Implementing the Strategy) thoroughly, opening the discussion in the same time.



National Seminar for multipliers in Ireland

Multiplier events were held in Maynooth in November 2017 to mark the culmination of the project and to test the usability of the DIMA online toolkit with stakeholders from the adult and further education sector in Ireland. Feedback suggested the DIMA toolkit and DIMA online training demystified the policy making process and provided a context to raise awareness among practitioners about their important role in policy making. Feedback also highlighted the importance of consultation in policy making and presents valuable guidelines for policy makers and practitioners to effectively engage in policy making. Stakeholders were very enthusiastic about the DIMA project and were keen to disseminate this training and to potential beneficiaries in their networks. The project outputs seek to enhance the effective development, implementation and monitoring of adult education strategies, policies and practices at local, regional, national and European levels.



National Seminar for multipliers in Belgium



The event was organized by Aleksandra Kozyra, EAEA membership officer, and attended by 18 adult education professionals from all over Europe and beyond. Participants were either adult educators or staff of adult education organisations. Participants were all very interested in the topic and took part enthusiastically in the discussions proposed. Francesca, the EAEA

project manager, introduced the project by presenting its main objectives and products. In particular, she explained how to access and use the e-learning platform, which could be a very useful tool for the participants. After a short brainstorming session where participants were asked to reflect about what is policy and who could be indicated as policy-makers in their countries, Aleksandra gave cutouts about the different stages of policy-making processes and ask them to put them together in the right order. Participants discussed whether the stages proposed were only stages and whether they should be a line in order to make the process end or a circle where the process is a continuum.

National Seminar for multipliers in Cyprus

The National Seminar for multipliers of the DIMA project took place on 28th of November in Pafos, Cyprus. During the national seminar, 20 participants (adult education providers, VET providers, teachers, etc.) were involved, who had the opportunity to learn about the project's aim, objectives and rationale. The main aim of the seminar was to familiarize key stakeholders and target group with the purpose, objectives and activities of DIMA and to present the Toolkit and the Online Course. This seminar started with a general presentation of the project, its aim and objectives, partner organizations, rationale and outcomes. After that, the results of the project were presented (online platform, Toolkit, e-learning modules, mobile app), focusing more specifically on the DIMA Toolkit and how stakeholders can use it in order to develop, implement and monitor adult education strategies. All participants appreciated the progress of the DIMA project and stated their further support and involvement to ensure the project sustainability. They also thought the seminar had been useful and informative.



DIMA Conclusions

The DIMA consortium was so far very successful in reaching the main target groups of the project and did good job in addressing the other target groups mentioned in the application. Partners are confident that, thanks to the measures agreed, the DIMA project will continue to be visible and its products exploited after the end of the official lifespan. The exploitation activities agreed by the partners at the last partner meeting are:

- Integrating the project outcomes into the partners' activities and take contacts with the DIMA-related projects.
- Creating of a map of stakeholders
- The development of a framework for lobbying
- Influencing policy at local and national level

DIMA Project Outcomes

- State of the art report on existing adult education strategies, policies and tools in partner countries and at the European level;
- Comparative study of needs assessment at national and EU level;
- Practical toolkit to facilitate the development, monitoring and assessment of adult education. It includes, among others, a conceptual framework on effective strategy and policies, guidelines and practical tips as well as a collection of good practice examples;
- Training curriculum and material to be used by policy makers and adult education providers;
- E-learning portal with an innovative training package: online instructional materials on adult education strategy development and monitoring;

Partners

Coordinator: Ministry of Education and Culture (CY)

Consortium:

- Centre for Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology (CY)
- National University of Ireland Maynooth (IE)
- Andragoski Center Republike Slovenije (SI)
- European Association for the education of Adults, EAEA (BE)
- Narodny Ustav Celozivotneho Vzdelavania (SK)

News, updates and DIMA Outputs are uploaded on the [project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

