



3rd Newsletter, May 2011

EDDILI

“To **ED**ucate is to make possible
the **DI**scovery of **LI**fe”.

Dear reader,

The project EDDILI runs since 2008 and is now coming to the last phase: The presentation of the products!

Background:

The project takes inspiration from the social and educational work of Danilo Dolci, peacemaker and sociologist who first came to Sicily from the North of Italy in the beginning of the 1950s in order to study the conditions of society and try to find the possible elements of change.

EDDILI is the result of cooperation between seven organizations from six European countries (Italy, Cyprus, Spain, Germany, Holland, Switzerland) aimed at introducing, experimenting and sharing the reciprocal maieutic approach (RMA) of Danilo Dolci as an educational approach to be used in the field of training of adult learning staff. EDDILI is being implemented in all partner countries simultaneously, achieving this way a strong multiplying effect and a strong European dimension.

The projects phases:

1. In the **first project phase** there was an initial training for an international group of trainers (trainers of ALS - adult learning staff) in Palermo.
2. The gained knowledge was implemented in the **second project phase**: The trainers held training courses in their own country. In Italy, Cyprus, Spain, Germany, Holland and Switzerland groups of adult learning staff dealt with the RMA method, learned how to apply it and questioned it.
3. In the **third project phase** the partners reflected and evaluated the learning achievements and created a prototype, as the first draft of a final manual based on the use and application of RMA in adult education. We want to let you have a closer look on what we did in this time:

➤ **Evaluation of the practical experience**

During the training courses in the second project phase the trainers and adult learning staff were constrained to reflect about the method, its strengths and weaknesses. To support this, they were given questionnaires which covered all important aspects to create a comprehensive conclusion. The project partners evaluated and analyzed all these questionnaires and came to the following points as main outcomes:

- RMA has been perceived as an innovative approach that focuses on personal development and on the potential creativity and talent of people.
- Three of what we consider to be the most determinant dimensions of RMA, were achieved by the majority of ALS: the capacity to “be open to diversity”, to “promote active listening” and “create a friendly environment in the group”.
- The learning achievements can be clustered in two dimensions:
 1. The professionalization effects (including the statements that consider as strength of the RMA the possibility to develop communication, strategic and organizational skills...)
 2. The cognitive and relational effects (the possibility to discuss topics like raising the consciousness of one’s actions, to develop creative skills as well as the capacity to have a conversation with anyone...)
- E-learning modules resulted as a challenging point of the RMA testing. We came to the conclusion, that E-learning used as regular pedagogical tool and learning environment, is not yet sufficiently developed in adult education for many reasons that are linked to the age and the digital competence of both trainers and learners, e.g. their status as “digital immigrants”. In using and dealing with the E-learning we fulfilled EDDILI’s aim to experiment with the potential of ICTs for implementation of the RMA. Many ALS took the impulse to deal with ICT (especially social networks) for the first time.
- To sum up, the RMA training activities have been definitely effective. The learning achievements reached the different national contexts unleashed a growth in the acquisition of cognitive and relational/cultural competences, indeed a typical feature of the RMA.
- Internal communication within the groups – another indicator of the RMA learning achievement – was generally fluent and effective.

➤ **The Prototype**

The Prototype includes all aspects around RMA we worked on and can be used as an instruction how to apply the RMA method in a group. It is spited in four chapters:

1. EDDILI PROJECT

This chapter includes a general description of the project and its objectives.

2. THE RMA

In this chapter you will find general information about the RMA, its theoretical framework, characteristics and pedagogical aspects.

3. RMA TRAINING COURSES

In this chapter you find clear instructions on how to develop RMA In-presence and E-learning modules.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The fourth chapter includes the learning achievements and competences acquired by the adult learning staff at the end of the RMA training modules as well as innovative aspects of RMA in adult education.

What's next?

As the Prototype is ready the bell for the last project phase is sounded!

Next steps:

- All partners are going to implement a local dissemination seminar in June.
- All the partners will do exploitation tasks to prepare a good start for the RMA manual being used by adult learning institutions and also in other fields of education
- In October 2011 there will be a final international meeting Cyprus to reflect about all the project development and finish the work. The final valorization will be done there.

If you want to learn more about EDDILI, or are interested in using the RMA manual visit

<http://reciprocalmaieutic.danilodolci.it/>

www.reciprocalmaieutic.eu

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Eddili-Network-of-ALS/134562489929523>



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