



# NEWSLETTER

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The main aim in this projects has been to transfer an innovative program of training language interpreters from the UK to Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Germany. The idea was to create a training course that would enable bilingual migrants to work as interpreters for other migrants with language barriers in public services.

### Our pilot courses: succesfull!

In each of the partner countries two pilot courses took place which aimed at adapting the British 36-hour course to the conditions of the respective country. The first pilot course took place from September-November 2013. The further developed program of the second pilot course (February-June 2014) included E-learning options like Wiki and Office Word glossaries, the use of internal platforms and e-learning materials for self-study. We had an overall number of 155 participants with an average number of 12-19 per course. Their age ranged from 18-60 and they had different educational backgrounds and mother tongues.

### Training content

In the 36-hour course the participants acquired specific knowledge in the areas of:

- ✓ Interpreting notes technique
- ✓ Producing of glossaries
- ✓ General interpreter techniques
- ✓ Law
- ✓ Medicine & Psychology
- ✓ Structure of local and national government

## The final conference in Berlin

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of September we had a very positive final conference in Berlin.

The main aim of the final conference was to share with the audience the journey of the two years work from October 2012 until September 2014, to share some of the great case studies of our workshops and the main outcomes, results and expectations for the future.



We had excellent presentations on the value and importance of interpreters, especially at a time of migration to Europe by people fleeing conflicts in other parts of the world.



All project partners took part in the final conference: Dacorum CVS (Great Britain), RUNI Center (Bulgaria), Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolci (Italy), Iberika (Germany) and Active Citizens Partnership (Greece). Before, our last project meeting took place at the language school Iberika in Berlin. The aim of the project meeting was to discuss the final results and the possibilities of a further development of our project.

## Some of our success stories

- **Ksenia (Germany):** realised that she really wants to work as an interpreter, and is thinking to start-up her own company.
- **Valentina (Germany):** already had experience in the interpreting sector. She plans to enrol for a master program in translation to further improve her skills.
- **Sidonie (Italy):** student at the university of Palermo, successful in the training, she hopes to be able to take part in other courses.
- **Nadège (Italy):** already working as a language mediator at the Hospital of Palermo, she feels her skills have been enhanced through the training.
- **Ahmad (Greece):** hired by the Greek police for a centre for illegal migrants.

- ❖ 7 trainees from pilot 1 and 2 decided to start a social enterprise of interpreters and cultural mediators. The new social enterprise will start its work in the next couple of months and some participants work now for the asylum-seekers authority (Greece)
- ❖ Thanks to these workshops in Italy, now there is a collaboration with the Italian Red Cross to assist migrants in Lampedusa and an interpreting service in territorial commissions for recognition of international protection to asylum-seekers (Italy)
- ❖ The German Jobcenter is willing to start a collaboration for training interpreters that can help in their information centers (Germany)

## Our Future plans

Though the originally planned official recognition for the 36 hour course seems to be a very difficult issue the demand for interpreters is so big at the recent migration situation in Europe that this is more important than accreditation. In this case accreditation is an additional benefit but not a vital requisite in order to continue offering the course in each country. All the four countries are willing to continue developing this starting course to the 120 hour course that will enable participants to take their DPSI (Diploma in Public Service interpreting).



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