

School Safety Net

Virtual Meeting on the Case Scenario Entitled "A Hand of Help to Make a Dream Come True"

28 October 2014, 14:00 – 15:00

Minutes

Agenda

1. Introduction to the Virtual Meeting (Pixel)
2. Presentation of the agenda of the virtual meeting (Botosani)
3. Brief introduction to the thematic area and to the case scenario (Botosani)
4. Presentation of the discussion which took place on the Project Portal (Botosani)
5. Presentation of the identified strategy (Botosani)
6. Portuguese teachers' feedback on the proposed strategy (spoke person for the Portuguese teachers)
7. Romanian teachers' feedback on the proposed strategy (spoke person for the Romanian teachers)
8. Turkish teachers' feedback on the proposed strategy (spoke person for the Turkish teachers)
9. Conclusion of the Virtual Meeting (Botosani)

List of Participants

Name and Surname	Institution, Country
Lorenzo Martelini	Pixel, Italy
Mihaela Achihăiței	Liceul "Alexandru cel Bun" Botosani, Romania
Cristina Horbovanu	Liceul "Alexandru cel Bun" Botosani, Romania
Doina Ciobanu	Liceul "Alexandru cel Bun" Botosani, Romania
Oana Acsinie	Liceul "Alexandru cel Bun" Botosani, Romania
Sorin Aionesei	Liceul "Alexandru cel Bun" Botosani, Romania
Mustafa Cuneyt	Kırıkkale University, Turkey
Mustafa Cengiz	Kırıkkale University, Turkey
Mustafa Bayrakçı	Kırıkkale University, Turkey
Domingos Santos	IP Castelo Branco, Portugal
Ana Cravo	IP Castelo Branco, Portugal
Carla Ponte	IP Castelo Branco, Portugal
Hélder Correia	IP Castelo Branco, Portugal

Minutes

The meeting started on 28 October 2014, at 13:00

1. Introduction to the Virtual Meeting (Pixel)

Lorenzo Martelini from Pixel said hello everybody, verified the equipment, invited all the participants to introduce themselves, presented shortly the content of the virtual meeting and invite the Romanians to moderate the virtual meeting.

2. Presentation of the agenda of the virtual meeting (Botosani)

Mihaela Achihaiti – coordinator from the Romanian partner, Liceul “Alexandru cel Bun” Botosani, presented the Agenda of the meeting, who contains 9 points.

3. Brief introduction to the thematic area and to the case scenario (Botosani)

After the presentation of the Agenda, Mihaela Achihaiti made a brief introduction in the thematic area and the case scenario. She specified that the case scenario proposed by Romania called “A Hand of Help to Make a Dream Come True” belongs to the thematic area “The Early Identification of the Students at Risk of early School Leaving”.

Cristina Horbovanu - English teacher from Romania presented the case scenario.

4. Presentation of the discussion which took place on the Project Portal (Botosani)

After the presentation of the case scenario, the moderator presented the discussions which took place on the Project Portal. First, she brought thanks to all the participants for their contribution on the strategy to solve the case scenario. After that, the moderator said that there were posted opinions and remarks of 3 teachers from Portugal, 2 teachers from Turkey and 2 teachers from Romania. The opinions were positive, the teachers appreciated the involvement of the school: head teacher, teachers, form-teacher, students and family in supporting Mihaela- the case scenario protagonist. Very relevant was the opinion of **Carla Ponte** from Portugal who appreciated that this case can be an example of a rather successful ongoing story, as it highlights all levels of cross functional teamwork. She appreciated too the efforts made by the form-teacher trying to “build the bridge over troubled waters”, also the role of the family. **Domingos Santos**, from Portugal, underlined too the importance of the family and of the head teacher who created the right context for her teacher and schoolmates to get more and more involved.

From Romania, **Oana Acsinie** appreciated that this is a happy case and the other teachers, especially **Helder Correira** from Portugal and **Mustafa Bayrakci** from Turkey agreed with her.

5. Presentation of the identified strategy (Botosani)

After the presentation of the discussions from the Project Portal, the moderator invite the psychologist from Liceul “Alexandru cel Bun” Botosani, Romania to present the proposed strategy entitled “**The incremental inducing of the positive intrinsic motivation for learning**”.

The strategy describe in each section the participants’ reaction and strategies to be implemented. First section contains a strategy to develop a balanced self-concept, to accept

herself unconditionally, to use learning strategies adequate to the level of bio-psycho-social development, to take into account the need to self-update. The classmates attitude and behaviour section propose some strategies to be implemented such as: growing interpersonal intelligence, creating a social niche for Mihaela and her classmates, encouraging team-work based on cooperation, increasing pair learning, using the responsibility language within the interaction in the class, choosing some volunteers to offer her things she needs.

Strategy for the teachers: using positive reinforcement and shaping as a technique to influence behaviour, using teaching methods specific, using prompting in teaching, using some modular activities, active observation of the student's progress, asking for a feedback. Strategy for the parents: practicing unconditioned acceptance within family, encouraging independent assertive behaviour, monitoring the progress made by the student, implementing studying strategies discussed about at school, frequent meeting with the student's teachers, collaboration with teachers in assessing the periodical progress made by Mihaela.

For the headmaster: creating a database to include the students with special needs, collaboration with the form-master, school psychologist, educational counsellor in order to design a plan aimed at remedying the identified problems, implementation of the remedial measures and implementation of a quantitative and qualitative preliminary assessment of the results that were acquired, asking for funds from the local budget to financially support the students belonging to socially disadvantaged groups, popularization of the students' problems within local community.

For the other actors: involvement of some agencies such as AJOFM in shaping the professional development of the students with learning difficulties, sensitizing the business environment in order to offer financial support, training sessions for these students, conducting lobby and advocacy campaign to adopt legislative package favourable to the students belonging to disadvantage categories, through the civil society.

6-8 Teachers' feedback on the proposed strategy (spoke person for the Portuguese teachers, Romanian teachers and Turkey teachers)

After the presentation of the strategy, the moderator invited the partners to give a feedback, considered very necessary and useful in order to complete the proposed strategy. All the participants in the virtual meeting underlined that:

- We need to create in the classroom a spirit of tolerance and empathy from the classmates.
- Supporting the students for their integration in the professional and social life.
- Disabled students must be understood by people who are around them such as their families, classmates and teachers.
- School director must inform normal students to understand disabled classmates.
- Extracurricular activities should be adjusted not only to normal students but also to disabled ones.

- Instructors must be careful while selecting certain activities such as hiking, camping, running, which can affect disabled students negatively.
- Create much more financial support to disabled people. In this respect, the government must provide a scholarship to disabled students for their special needs.
- The form master and the head-teacher had better want to get help from the Ministry of Education for suitable school furniture, specialized school staff and other necessary materials.
- Also, the financial support may be requested from various institutions and benefactors with the aim to finding a scholarship.
- In order to increase intrinsic motivation, should be provide a psychological support for Mihaela.
- In their spare time, the classmates and the teachers should help her fill the gap between her prior knowledge and current education.

Conclusions: Disabled students are not totally different from normal people. People must try to do everything to bring them into society. Sometimes we need to “force” a bit and everyone starts to see things in the same way.

9. Conclusion of the Virtual Meeting (Botosani)

It was a fruitful meeting and very constructive. The Romanian team addressed thanks to all the partners for their opinions and remarks. They will take in consideration all the propositions made in this virtual meeting in order to complete the proposed strategy. They appreciated too the conclusions from the portal discussions. The moderator noticed that the equipment worked well, all the teachers invited were present and agreed with the proposed strategy. She specified also that they have to include specific links to the guidelines in order to make the strategy more useful and the mirror of the educational materials and guidelines produced during this project.