



PROVINCIA DI GENOVA

SOCRATES - GRUNDTVIG PROGRAMME

Transnational MEETING OF SCATE PARTNERS

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SCATE

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French contribution to Scate Outputs

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In introduction to the presentation of the French outputs of the project, I would like to explain how we have worked in France. It seems very important to point out the process in which results have been obtained to appreciate them and the main changes that the project have produced, specially the unexpected results. So, I am trying to give you information on the cultural context and notably key information on popular education situation to understand the background of the project development. After presentation of the requested outputs, I'll detail the common work that we have been carrying on since the Paris seminar. From our opinion, this unexpected development enlarges the impact of the project and it could be interesting to discuss with you how to give it a more international dimension.

1. SCATE and the Popular Education Networks in France.

Different practices of learning based on self learning or small groups of learners have been developed in France through a wide range of networks within aim to increase people's empowerment.

The common point of these networks consists in the use of different innovative methods to develop education and training. So, the *Cité des métiers* in Paris asked to the more relevant of them, in respect of their complementarity, to join us in the project development.

- The "Réseau des Cités des métiers" is well known for its ability to create motivation for lifelong learning,
- The Réseau des Ateliers de Pédagogie Personnalisée (APP) is a network of Open Learning Centres where learning is based on flexible and personalized pedagogical methods and contracts negotiated with the learner,

- The Réseaux d'Echanges Réciproques de Savoirs (RERS) (Reciprocal exchanges of knowledge networks) are networks interested in exchanging knowledge (Claire Heber-Suffrin, the promoter of this concept, will tell you more tomorrow)
- The Réseau Arbor&Sens : practitioners of Trees of knowledge mapping make up this network

These networks developed tools and methodologies for self learning and different situations of learning by cooperation, for example:

- formalisation of knowledge exchange between individuals,
- mapping of knowledge hold by a community and exchangeable,
- contracts in individual training actions in order to give an institutional visibility and permit their financial and social assessment.

So, they appear very complementary bringing additional tools and methods to get the learners a better empowerment.

Through the concept of empowerment, we can find several frameworks which concern different spheres with interaction, more or less, between the following levels of empowerment:

- Personal Routes
- Creative solidarities
- Enlarged social recognition
- Institutional innovation

Some networks, like RERS or APP, can be describe like bridges or crossing area between different levels but if, by this way, some of the French practices look quite similar with the practices of study circles, observed in the other countries of the project, they appear like islands in the French learning system: At the difference of the Swedish situation, the different levels of empowerment in France may be partly linked one with each other, but they are not integrated together at all, and each network continues to develop separately.

SCATE gives them an opportunity to exchange methods and so to create closer interactions and crossbreed practices used at different levels of empowerment. Each network can expect a benefit from learning from each other and from "hybridization" within other French or European experiences but furthermore, all together they could expect a collective benefit in exchanging practices with the European SCATE partners.

2. Concrete Outputs

Three kinds of outputs have emerged from SCATE, as you can see on the slide: first of all, outputs expected by the project, but also two pathways leading to further development in pursuing the SCATE objectives.

- **Contribution to the Handbook on study circles :**
Description of French experiences similar to Study Circles, like the Open Learning Centres (APP) and the Reciprocal Knowledge Exchange Networks concept .
- **Contribution to the Handbook on Trees of Knowledge :**

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Presentation of the methods of mapping knowledge or skills, aiming to exchange knowledge within small communities of learners or trainees

Description of Case Studies in different environment: Open Learning Environment and Classroom Environment.

- Five National Seminars

To improve the impact of the SCATE project in France and to give it the best audience, the French partners choose to contribute to national meetings organised by Networks closed to the lifewide learning issues and individualised pedagogy. Focused on specific issues to promote the formation of study circles and disseminate the SCATE project, the national seminars were attended by a large public.

- **3-4 May 2005 Marseille** : National Wide Meeting of Public Internet Access Points (EPN) (40 participants including some working in Cyber-bases) <http://www.lafriche.org/rencontre-espaces-publics/programme.html>

- **3rd June 2005 Noirmoutier**: MIFE national meeting named: « Vocational Guidance and Labour - Facilitating Lifelong Professional Routes »
The MIFE are interested in particular in promoting continuing vocational training and had developed original tools and personalised vocational guidance practices built on innovative methods (40-50 persons). Some MIFE have already experimented trees of knowledge.
<http://www.intermife.net/actu-archi.html>

- **8th June 2005 Paris**: International Network of Cités des métiers (14 managers)
During the meeting, it has been discussed the opportunity to add an « Open learning Centre » to the *Cités des métiers* and to offer a new service to individual people within a specific space where they can constitute small learners communities in a kind of study circles to develop their empowerment by exchanging knowledge.

- **1st July 2006 Paris**: Meeting with the members of the national network RERS « Share of Knowledge and lifelong learning ». During one day long, 30 participants pointed out experiences on their own practices and tried to find examples of crossbreeding.

- **26-27th January 2006 Tours**: National Meeting of CIRASTI Network on scientific and technical animation named « Science for everybody: an utopia of Popular Education? »
CIRASTI federates many associations, as well generalist or specialist, from popular Education, involved in development of scientific and technical discovery for every body. It organises several sciences exhibition like forums or events.
Six persons from the research-action group involved in the SCATE project contributed to several workshops and round tables (200 persons). http://www.cirasti.org/image_lettre/42/42.html#ancre2

- International Seminar, Paris, 6-7th October 2005

The first day was devoted to the project partners: Study visits of an APP (Open Learning Centre), the Cyber-base and the *Cité des métiers* of the *Cité des sciences et de l'industrie*
The second day: Seminar to discuss significant experiences with respect to Study circles (100 participants, members of French networks of Popular Education (APP, Arbor&sens, RERS, Cirasti, Cyber-bases, CDM, ...).
The conference and round tables discussions are on line as well as the transcription of Michel Authier's conference.
http://www.cite-sciences.fr/francais/web_cite/informer/tec_met/scate-seminaire.htm

3. Unexpected outputs of SCATE

- A research/action group, called “Learn Ability Laboratory”:

As a direct consequence of the National Meetings hold during the first year of the project, many people attended the international seminar in Paris, and wished to go further together, and specially members of the RERS. So, a group of about 20-30 persons of different origins from Popular Education have constituted a work group (RERS, APP, Arbor&Sens CIRASTI, Cyber-base, trainers, ..) which has participated to regular workshops with aim to build a common pathway as requested in SCATE. They decided to meet regularly during one or two years.

Since today, four workshops : 15th November, 5th January, 6th February, 27th March

This group decided:

- To test and observe “hybridization” practices when crossbreeding methods
- To build a methodology to get the networks closer by reinforcing themselves and developing their own tools.
- To observe how what we have learnt from Study Circles and Time Banks to enhance the networks’ own practices.
- To observe how to do, in order to get every body a better knowledge of its own practices and be able to appreciate the added value for oneself.

This group itself works like a study circle, learning about trees of Knowledge

- The premise of an Observatory of empowerment

To link the four dimensions of empowerment and give concrete answers, the group began to collect testimonies and has tried:

- to observe the situation of people who increase their empowerment at different levels in the spheres,
- to analyse the origin of these situations,
- to observe the results in terms of “hybridization” and changes brought in the interactions between the levels of empowerment.

The mapping methodology is used as a tool for description of the differences and similarities of members’ ideas.

<http://seek.arbor-et-sens.org/linkage//help/Fr/helpContext/arbor/Flyers/scate.htm>

Conclusion:

We are very glad of these unexpected developments and, specially the presence of Claire Heber-Suffrin in the Sofia meeting to share with you our set of problems and to learn from your experience. We do believe that what we are testing in France with the research action group is a

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good way to carry on the SCATE aims. We couldn't imagine, at the beginning of the project, that we could reach such a stage and we are very thankful to the French networks which have accepted to join us in SCATE.