



PROVINCIA DI GENOVA



SOCRATES - GRUNDTVIG PROGRAMME

Transnational MEETING OF SCATE PARTNERS

Conference

**Sofia, 30/31 March 2006
Best Western City Hotel, Sofia**

Study Circles: A Tool for Empowerment

R. Bencivenga, Province of Genoa, Italy

Which are the main aims of Scate project? To study the possibility of integrating elements of study circles, time banks and frameworks (trees) of knowledge into an unique and new path. To foster the dissemination of innovative forms of financing for adult education and stimulate the demand for education in a population that is generally reluctant to develop lifelong learning strategies.

Background

The partners considered the specific needs of an increasing adult and senior population, for whom traditional learning offers, be it formal schooling, training or adult lifelong learning, may be inappropriate. Another need taken into consideration when defining the project's characteristics was that of facilitating the access of both the people who have a job and of those who are outside the labor market to educational pathways with the following specificities:

- tailored to the individual's specific requirements,
- responding to different needs,
- and which do not necessarily target employability.

The partners initially identified, as worthy of further analysis, three solutions, known separately in some or all the Countries represented in the proposal:

Study circles, Time banks and Réseau d'Echanges de Savoirs and Frameworks of knowledge. Which possible integration among these three tools could possibly results in a fourth tool?

Outputs

Several outputs are foreseen:

- Guidelines for shaping study circles' educational pathways; a handbook for the analysis and dissemination of good practice at national and transnational level within the promotion of Study circles; a model of "Trees of Knowledge" and methods of exchange of the knowledge capitalized by study circles following the example of time banks and Réseau d'Echanges de Savoirs
- Services: provision of counseling/tutoring services to study circles
- Services analyses: analysis of data relating to the counseling/tutoring services to study circles
- Conferences: international conferences for the presentation of the model developed and dissemination of project results
- Seminars : national level: seminars focused on specific issues to promote the formation of study circles international level: transnational seminar to discuss significant experience with respect to Study circles

Transnational meetings

The partners wished to transform all the meetings into meaningful moments of work and personal exchange.

All the 4 project meetings are featuring collateral activities designed to make the meetings useful beyond their organizational and administrative angles.

First project meeting in Sweden: 3-7 March 2005

It was natural to organize the first meeting in the country where study circles have a century-old history. This allowed participants to get acquainted with the experience of the

Grant Agreement number: 116464-CP-1-2004-1-IT-GRUNDTVIG-G1

Swedish Partners right in their home and through meeting with the personnel and with the members of the local study circles, to collect much useful information both at a practical and organizational level.

Second project meeting in Paris, 5-9 October 2005

At this stage, the project has been underway for several months.

A seminar (with simultaneous translation to allow for a large public attendance) allowed to assess the situation and discuss and analyse both the previous experiences of the partners and the new theoretical and practical themes emerging from the project.

Third international project meeting. Sofia, 30/31 March 2006

Bulgaria claims a thriving activity in adult training but the three systems under study are somehow new in the Country. Workshops on the tools will allow to jointly discuss the possible integration and development of the three systems

Fourth project meeting in Italy, 22/23 October 2006

The Province of Genoa has organizational capacity and status to guarantee maximum visibility to the final event, the international congress.