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Promoting Spatial Development by Creating COMmon MINdscapes **COMMIN**



Training activities by Jyväskylä partners

Evaluation discussion on 14.12.2006

Present:

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Our evaluation consists of 3 documents:

- 1. Memorandum of the evaluation discussion**
- 2. Feedback Summary**
- 3. European Core Terms by COMMIN educations**

Summary of the feedback collected from the training participants includes

- overall evaluation
- evaluation of lecturers
- programme and spare time programme
- answers to open questions

Evaluation should show connection and integration of different WPs e.g. through practical examples, and manifest the use of the European core terms of spatial planning that have been identified in WP1

- search of the core terms in the training programme and the materials
→ identification of the best practices

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Own evaluation

- lectures did not form a uniform, continued lecture series → the original plan was not fulfilled in this respect
- stronger marketing of training sessions would have been needed at the beginning
 - lack of time, difficulty to match the lecturers' schedules
- the success of the trainings grew towards the end
- connections between WPs were poor especially at the beginning
- cooperation with Nordregio was a bit problematic: difficult to agree on training schedules, especially the first training had to be arranged too early (therefore premature)
- Jyväskylä was considered a good location for the training
- almost 120 participants, 80-90 individual persons in total
- the costs of participants were covered by the project → only working hours were spent by the participants
- most of the participants came from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Germany, very few from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Belarus
- some participants faced problems with visas (Belarus)
- delay of the integrated Tacis project "Developing EXcellence – DEX", delayed the start of the training → Russian participants missed the first training
- some participants felt the translation of lectures into Russian problematic → simultaneous translation should be used
- especially the spare time programme and the study trips to different sites received positive feedback
- e-learning tool was missing due to:
 - changing participants of the training
 - expensive to develop only for a few continuous participants and several language variants (English, Russian)
 - all materials have been available to the participants on-line
 - low utilization rate: e-mail was considered sufficient in keeping contact
- from the organisers' point of view the work can be seen as a learning process
- creation of the "training concept" was a pioneer work; parts of it have been recognized and adopted by some universities/Polytechnics of Europe
- multi-sectoral approach was a great plus in the training
- strong basis for future training was created
 - theory and practice combined, local and European expertise used, different scientific and multi-discipline approaches were utilized
- the creation of "Advanced Training Network" was not fulfilled, but the idea of such a network is considered useful and necessary
- the exchange of experiences has been detected to be very important and it is very much needed:
 - implementation of the "exchange of experience": not enough time for it within the training programmes
 - more exchange of experience between experienced spatial planners and the beginners would be needed

This memorandum is to be followed by the two other parts of the evaluation:

- **Feedback Summary and the report**
- **European Core Terms by COMMIN Educations,**

both compiled by the Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences.