

LINC

Everyone matters!

HOLISTIC, INCLUSIVE, COMMUNITY- BUILDING APPROACHES FOR EARLY AND CONTINUOUS INTERVENTIONS ADDRESSING ESL

WEBSITE: <http://linc-project.eu>

Duration: December 2013 – November 2015

Project ID: 539024-LLP-1-2013-1-GR-COMENIUS-CMP



EVALUATION ACTIVITIES IN ALL PARTNER SITES

The LINC evaluation activities in schools started in the fall of 2014 with users becoming exposed to selected LINC activities and the LINC social networking community. LINC evaluation is now complete in all partner sites in Greece, France, Sweden and the Czech Republic. Noteworthy, the participant schools are making the necessary adaptations in order to integrate selected activities in their annual school activity plan.

Evaluation activities in primary schools in Greece

Evaluation activities in the school complex of Volos started in October 2014. Among the activities that were deployed were: “the stargazing” activity, the “treasure hunting” activity, “the demystifying technology: it’s magic not magical” activity.



“The organisation of school activities for joint participation by students, parents and teachers is an excellent idea!”

Parent

The context of these activities aimed at bringing the school community closer to the community of experts from different subject areas as well as fostering the links between home and school. It was perceived that the deployed activities were well accepted by both parents and students. As the project was progressing the parents were seen to embrace more and more the LINC initiative. Both parents and students were seen to recognise that the activities have a goal that can be reached by working all together, by joining forces.

After almost one year and a half of involvement in the LINC project, initiatives are taken from the school parent community of the 25th primary school of Volos (Greece) towards introducing additional joint activities that offer opportunities for meaningful interactions among parents, teachers and students. In this respect, the “Archery for all” activity took place, a Christmas bazaar was organized by the parent school community and more. Additional schools across Greece expressed interest in taking part in the activities further enhancing the sustainability of the LINC initiative.

Evaluation activities in Czech Republic

The ZSKolin school engaged in LINC evaluation activities in the fall of 2014 with the deployment of the “**Reflecting upon career aspirations**” activity. Students from several grades were involved in the activity and were given the chance to interact with people from the world of work, to visit several work spaces, to reflect upon the different job roles and the value of education. Among the activities that were deployed was the ‘**Embracing Cultural Diversity**’ activity that motivating the students to see the world in new ways, to see cultures, including their own, to think and to act inter-culturally. The Stroll activity was also implemented and reached its peak on October 22, 2015 when a theatrical play was performed to a big audience comprised by parents, school staff, family members and fellow students.

Evaluation activities in France

Evaluation activities in **France** started in October 2014 through the deployment of the following two activities: “parents’ jobs to future children jobs” and “the child as an ICT teacher”. The activity reached its peak through the organization of a conference that included several sessions targeting the school community as a whole.

Through special courses delivered by the students, the participant parents were introduced to (a) a new trend in technology: the digital table, (b) physics experiments, (c) mathematical tasks, and (d) the use of online platforms. After the completion of the courses, the word was given back to two participant parents that were willing to share their professional experiences with the audience. The participants were seen to discuss the value of education and training in relation to professional prospects in life. Parents and teachers were seen to exchange ideas and experiences related to the conference venue, the dropout rates, the signs of early school leaving, the ESL prevention strategies, the stimulation of students towards schooling, the enhancement of the link between home and school and more.

Evaluation activities in Sweden

Evaluation activities in **Sweden** started with the “**reversed-classroom**” activity in the fall of 2014 in the context of which the students became the teachers of their parents. Exploiting participants’ interest, a follow up activity took place entitled “**reversed sports lesson**”. This activity drew upon the “reversed classroom” activity but it had a clear and direct focus on physical activities giving the opportunity to the parents to become familiar with indoor and outdoor physical activities that their children usually perform.

An additional activity that was deployed in Sweden was the “**Stroll activity**”. The activity was bringing parents, students, and teachers together in the context of “a magic walk” in the forest. The older students of the school were responsible for setting up the “magic setting” inspired by the world of trolls. The event was attended by **more than 200 people including students, parents and family members**.

Inspired by the resources that were becoming available in the LINC community, Swedish teachers designed and deployed the ‘**Self-evaluation**’ activity in the context of which **128 learners** were periodically being asked to complete a self-evaluation form. At a later stage the students were encouraged to talk about their self-evaluation forms in a meeting with the presence of the parents and the teacher. The meeting did not have a judgmental character; both parents and teachers held an advisory and supporting role. This activity attracted the interest of the school community members who expressed the opinion that this practice engages students in a “developmental dialogue”. The parents also seem to realize that there are many benefits that arise from this practice at personal, psychological and educational level.



ZSKolin students to the TCPA company in Czech Republic.



Parents and students are working together on creative tasks in Czech Republic.

“It was interesting to be at school during school hours, to meet with the teachers, students and parents. I got to see the parents from my daughter’s class which I had never met”.

Parent



Action in the context of the reversed sports lesson in Sweden.

“An incredibly fun sports lesson that I hope we will do again”

Parent



A magic night in the forest in the context of the Stroll activity in Sweden.

A small- scale survey related to LINC experience

With the aim of gathering additional qualitative data on the overall experience of the participants, interviews were carried out with 18 teachers and 18 parents that took part in LINC project. It seems that both groups recognize Early School Leaving as an important social problem that should be considered carefully. Almost all of them feel that the LINC activities succeeded in bringing closer parents, students and teachers as well as helping them develop a sense of belonging in the school community. Based on their responses it seems that among the strong points of the LINC intervention are a) the LINC methodology that put emphasis on the school community as a whole b) the LINC activities that provide opportunities for interaction among the school community members and c) the provision of an additional channel for distance communication.

A detailed presentation of the results can be found in [D5.2 Evaluation Report](#) that is available on the LINC portal.

The LINC Community is connected to Facebook®

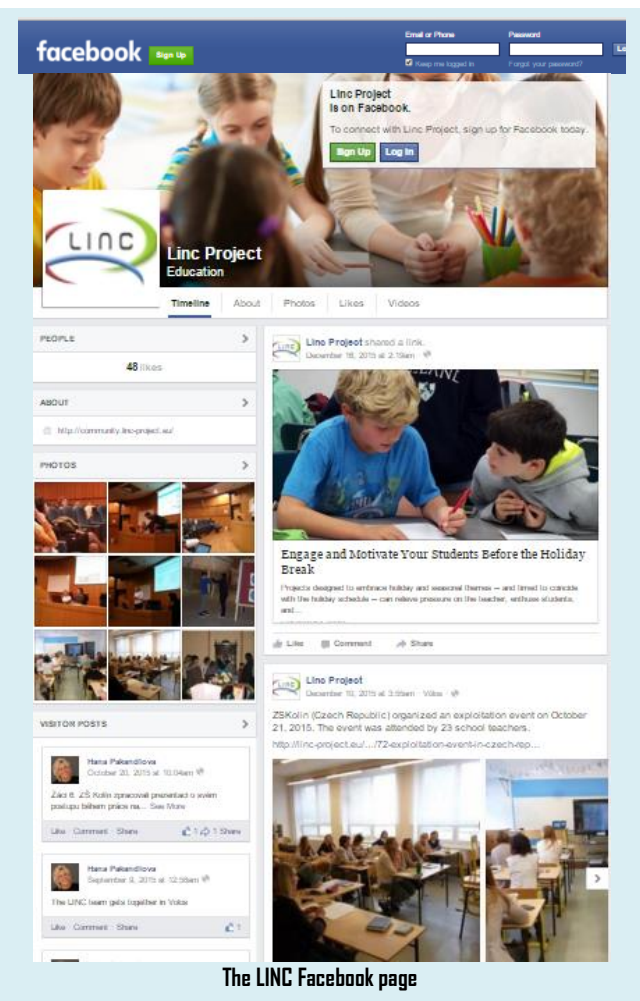
The home-school partnership is further enhanced through the LINC social networking community which was launched in the fall of 2014. The LINC community aspires to become an additional on-line “meeting point” that provides incentives for parents, teachers, and learners to become further engaged in the school community.



The LINC Social Networking Community

In order to meet community members needs the LINC community is now connected to Facebook. The connection has been implemented in two ways. First, the users have the option of logging into the LINC community using their Facebook® account. Thus, if an individual does not want to maintain a dedicated LINC community account, she can simply use an existing Facebook® account.

Second, closed groups in Facebook® have been created targeting parents and teachers. The closed groups provide an alternative method of posting to the community forums. This alternative discussion content posting and reviewing interface has two purposes; **First**, it allows members to see postings of others when they simply follow their Facebook® pages as part of leisurely activities, such as browsing the internet at down times, which is something that for many takes places regularly, even on a daily basis. The closed groups allow members to receive LINC related information in the Facebook® streams. **Second**, it allows members to post to the LINC forums indirectly through Facebook® interface with which they are already familiar. Participation in closed groups is by invitation only to ensure that participants are members of school communities that participate in LINC.



The LINC Facebook page

'Connection to Facebook is a popular functionality in social media communities of various sorts and now is offered through LINC.'
Community member

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

The LINC project is broadly disseminated to stakeholders and the wider lifelong learning sector aiming at maximizing the impact and added value of activities and outcomes. Recent exploitation events include:

Events and workshops:

The LINC project has been presented through the event **'Holistic Prevention of ESL through the Strengthening of School Communities'** that took place in Volos, Greece on November 27, 2015. The event was attended by over 70 educators from the area of Magnesia, Greece and was promoted through the Primary Education Administrative Authority of Mangesia. School consultants from the administration attended the event.

A workshop was also organized at **"School Forum 2015"** in Söderhamn Sweden from 26 to 28 October. The forum had 230 participants, teachers, policy makers, pedagogues and academics. The event presented information on the project objectives, outcomes and gave the participants the opportunity to test the community themselves. An exploitation event was also organized by 6ZSKolin in Czech Republic at **ZS Planany school** on October 21, 2015 targeting 23 teachers with the aim of informing them about **LINC methodologies and community**.

ORT Innovation and ORT Montreuil organised the **'Conference on the Early School Leaving and LINC'** at the **Daniel Mayer School** on August 31, 2015 with the objective of giving the different research results about the Early School Leaving ESL, and the different situations of risks that encountered the students. LINC project was presented in detail to an audience of about 120 persons (teachers, management of schools, parents, and representatives of the French Ministry of Education).

Conferences

LINC project has been presented at three new conferences during the 6 last months of the project implementation period. The project has been presented at the **INTED 2015 Conference in Madrid** on March 2-4, 2015; at the 8th Panhellenic Conference on ICT in Education in Syros Island in Greece on June 28-30, 2015 and at Sgames conference in Italy on September 16-17, 2015.

Media and Web

In addition with the support of the University of Thessaly public relations office, a press release on the LINC project, its objectives and related outcomes has been sent to **22 newspapers and other local media** in Greece in November, 2015. **LINC ideas have also web presence**. LINC publications are available to thematic portals and databases such as **Scientix online platform** that is well known among European research and school communities, **Photodento** that aggregates educational material available for the Greek school community, the **Panhellenic School Network** portal, which is broadly accessed by the primary and secondary education community in Greece and more as well as through social network services.



'Mobile and Game-based learning' event



Exploitation Event in ZSPlanany School



Project member in INTED 2015 Conference



LINC on Scientix Online Platform

PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY (GR)



ORT FRANCE (FR)



CERTH/IRETETH (GR)



CENTER FOR FLEXIBLE LEARNING (SE)

ZS KOLIN (CZ)

25th PRIMARY SCHOOL OF VOLOS (GR)



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.