

BABBAT – BETTER ADULT TRAINING



Dear readers,

Our Erasmus+ BABBAT project is like a ship sailing under the Icelandic captain Hansina and the treasure keeper Herdís. Their international crew are fearless, brave and well-experienced sailors from Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Greece, Czechia, and Spain. Only the seas are sometimes rough. After the kick off meeting in January 2020 the “ship” got into the “stormy waters” of the world pandemic and our well prepared project steps had to be modified. We had to find new communicating methods, research ways, disseminating channels.

What we didn't change were our goals:

- To map the reasons for motivation for learning
- To motivate the under-educated and low skilled for qualifying courses
- To show and lead the way when businesses and careers are in ruins
- To encourage them by good practice examples
- To enable easy access to the tools leading to mentioned above goals.

<http://babbat.riseba.lv>

The project team has been working for nearly two years virtually. We have known each other from computer screens. Through the screens we became not only a team but also reliable friends. Hardworking friends.



Everybody welcomed the gradual rebound to normal living and traveling which started in the summer. It enabled our LTT meeting in Athens, Greece in November 7 - 11, 2021. Learning-Teaching-Training was the red line of the meeting. During LTT in Athens we summarised our work.

Since February 2020 we established

- National Focus Groups of 15 experts in each partner country and active Facebook site
- Well-visited website <https://babbat.riseba.lv/>

we organized

- PIM meeting with all partners in January 2021
- 18th on-line meetings
- Multiplying Event Days with EKO and Riseba in April 2021 with hundreds (!) of on-line participants
- 4 meetings with Icelandic NA

we produced

- 4 Newsletters
- 2 articles on EPALE
- Interim Report (in December 2020)

we finished

- Output 01 and are finalizing Output 02

we prepared

- Activities for LTT seminar in Athens





The most important part of the Athens LTT meeting was a half day on-line conference with our Focus Group members. We prepared for FC experts several questions which were the base for the conference discussion. We asked them if they find O1 manual as a good motivating tool for start-ups in the post-covid times? How they see the written texts, personal stories and short videos – are these good learning and navigating tools for life-long learning? We also asked them what we could do differently or change and how to disseminate and share our project outputs best in adult training.

And here we have the replies from national Focus Group experts:

- It is important to hear and learn the personal stories these can motivate you to achieve your goals.
- Personal stories and short videos were amazing and very good learning tools.
- In the pandemic, many young people and mostly older people lost their jobs. ... this manual can help them to regain their lost self-confidence.
- The tool is suitable for centres and adult educators facing challenges to increase the number of LLL students...
- I can use personal stories and videos in my training...

The best way for dissemination and sharing

- social networks (e.g. FB, LinkedIn, etc.)
- Communication with trainers.... communication with companies and local authorities.
- ... distribute a link to the websites of companies, authorities, schools and other institutions.... Labour Offices, web site/internet, professional association, employees' associations, Chamber of Commerce
- Networking in local communities with educators, LinkedIn, EPALE etc.

[All involved experts deserve many thanks for investing their time and sharing their knowledge with us.](#)



As we could not invite to Athens all Focus groups members from all 7 project countries for the direct communication and discussion we invited one representative per country for on-line feedback.

Petr Studnička (CZ) finds the O1 a unique tool which must be used by educational agencies and labour offices. Low-skilled, parents after parental leave and senior staff are the target participants.

Zaida Gonzáles León (ESP) from Tenerife Job Training pointed out how helpful the BABBAT is because can be used in company's clients training which is a common goal in European adult educating.

Jelena Parfjonova (EST) emphasized how important is personal willingness of those who are involved in LLL. She said: I can inspire only those who want to be inspired.

Ance Saulite (LAT) recommended non-formal contract between a trainer and a trainee and survey of trainees needs.

Asterios Satrazemis (GR) from hosting EILD said that O1 is excellent and short videos and personal stories can be a useful material in adults training. His colleague **Paraskevas Satrazemis** also mentioned that in Greece most of unemployed people receive an unemployment benefit, that is why they are afraid they will lose this benefit if they take part in training activities.

Aurelija Jankienė (LIT) accentuated how personal background (family, finances, health issues) restricts the will for learning as well as the lack of IT or language skills.

Einar Karl Vilhjálmsson (ICE) underlined that O1 is easily accessible as the tool is simple but effective. Short videos fit best for motivation as they can be easily followed.

During LTT meeting in Athens we met local entrepreneurs involved with adult training. **Panos Kotzias** and **Fanis Glarenzos** from ConSce company create innovative educational models and workshops which integrate specified artificial environments via tailor-made scenarios. **Konstantinos Tsiomos** from Newco presented how knowledge and the accumulated experience can be combined with the innovation required for the development in the globalized world. **Paris Koloveas**, a Data Science researcher provided facts about adult learning and potential hindrances.



On Thursday evening we met **Kostas Chardavelas**, the deputy Mayor and entrepreneur who spoke about educating activities in WESIG, an NGO active in the fields of sustainability in Greece. We really appreciated that they shared their professional experience and precious time with us. The interesting discussion and working atmosphere were supported by brilliant November sunny weather and the Acropolis view. Many thanks to our stakeholders and especially EILD team for typically Greek hospitality full of smiles and sunshine!

An LTT week in Athens is over. We will develop newly achieved professional experience and tips for next steps in our project in March at the LTT in Tenerife. ¡Hasta la vista!



Follow us on the project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/betteradultlearning>

