

Innovative Approach in Adult Education: Digital Storytelling in Intergenerational Learning

Newsletter 1: January 2022

The E-SHAHRAZAD Project – Keeping Heritage Alive

The E-SHAHRAZAD project plans to use stories to bridge the gap between generations, inspired by 'The Thousand and One Nights' and following a tradition practiced in every era since time began.

The aim of the project is to connect young people between the ages of 13- 25 with seniors aged 55+, to develop basic reading, writing and ICT skills for the older participants and share knowledge and skills about European cultural heritage, values and history with the younger group.

Supported by the Erasmus+ Adult Education Program and the French National Agency, the E-SHAHRAZAD project is a collaboration between Innovative Thinking Lab (TR), EduVita (IT), Association Culturelle Des Jeunes Turks de Bar Le Duc (FR), Portugal, The Storytelling Academy at Loughborough University (UK) and CAI - Conversas Associacao Internacional (PR).

As part of the project, participants from the target groups will use a Digital Storytelling process to shape and tell true-life stories, first orally and then through simple films they will learn to make themselves. Skills they will practice include creativity, communication, knowledge, learning and understanding, and the use of media and film-making platforms.

The first outcome of the project was to prepare the Digital Storytelling methodology, which was translated into multiple languages for EU and international adult education policy makers to use. Guides, toolkits and other learning resources for adult education centres and home-learners across the world to access will also be developed, and made available through an online Digital Storytelling platform.

Five national meetings are due to be staged across the project, including a three-day International Digital Storytelling Festival to be held in Bar le Duc, France.

Altogether, the E-SHAHRAZAD project will see some 150 adult educators trained in delivering the Digital Storytelling method, which they will then share in their own settings. The number of learners who will ultimately benefit from the scheme is unquantifiable.

At the end of the project, a compendium of good practice in using Digital Storytelling as a tool for adult learning will be put together and shared with all stakeholders.

Find out more about the E-SHAHRAZAD project at www.e-shahrazad.eu/.

Target Group Meeting News

Between 23rd and 25th June 2021, each of the six partner organisations held a Focus Group Meeting in a setting local to themselves, with learners from the target groups (13-25-year-olds and adults aged 55+) invited to take part alongside instructors from the field of adult education.

In these meetings, people shared their thoughts and experiences of using digital storytelling, voicing difficulties they felt people like themselves might face in being asked to use the technique and suggesting possible solutions for overcoming them.



Lisbon Meeting News

The Second Transnational Project Meeting was held in Lisbon on 27th and 28th October 2021, with contributions from all five countries managing the project. An extraordinary welcome was extended by the hosts, C.A.I - CONVERSAS ASSOCIAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL, to those who were able to attend .

Partners shared discussions and presentations on the subject of project management, covering topics that included quality and risk management, the Digital Storytelling methodology, and strategies for dissemination.

Whilst the meeting largely focussed on intellectual output I - "Development Methodology to Digital Storytelling in Intergenerational Learning", partners also discussed the roadmap to intellectual output II - "Preparation of the Guide and Toolkits for Digital Storytelling in Intergenerational Dimension for Adult Education", as well as output III - "Establishment of a Digital Storytelling HUB (E-Shahrazad Hub)".

Partners also had time to discuss budget matters, the administrative process and timesheets.



E-SHAHRAZAD Podcast Series

In Autumn of 2021, the E-SHAHRAZAD project created ten podcasts from an interview carried out with Antonia Liguori and Alison Mott of Loughborough University's Storytelling Academy.

Project partners Fatma Akay, Deniz Demirel, Sinem Özcan, Hanna Urbanovich and Jacopo Sgro raised questions about what exactly digital storytelling is, how the approach to be used by the project differs from other kinds of storytelling and film making, and whether the method is an effective way to share knowledge and promote intergenerational learning when used in adult education.



'Digital storytelling isn't just the process of creating something digital,' Dr Liguori explains in the podcast. 'It's about creating a safe space for everyone to share whatever they want to share, and making sure that people are listening to each other, learning from each other.'

The five-step digital storytelling method the project follows involves people sharing a true-life story to a group of listeners who are sitting in a story circle. Sharing in this inclusive way allows the storyteller to explain their motives, feelings and ideas, and to see the transformative effect their story has on the others.

The group then learn how to turn their stories into short, individual films, skill-sharing and supporting each other through the making-process. 'Digital storytelling is about transferable skills,' Dr Liguori says, 'about not being afraid of saying what you know and don't know and learning from each other.'

The podcast interviewers concluded with the question of whether it's possible to work on differences between the generations through digital storytelling - a question the E-SHAHRAZAD project is set to find out.

The ten E-SHAHRAZAD podcast episodes went live in November 2021 and can be found online at www.anchor.fm/eshahrazad as well as on Spotify.

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