


L.I.S.T.E.N.
lifelong info on studies and training for educational needs
PROJECT REPORT



Socrates Grundtvig2 Project

 Istituto Professionale di Stato per i Servizi Sociali, Commerciali e Turistici

“DON ZEFIRINO IODI”
REGGIO EMILIA



St. John's
**Central
College**



GÓRNOŚLĄSKIE CENTRUM EDUKACYJNE



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Lifelong Information on Studies and Training for Educational Needs

Report on the
Grundtvig Project

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Don Zefirino Iodi, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Elsa Morante, Sassuolo, Italy

Gornośląskie Centrum Edukacyjne, Gliwice, Poland

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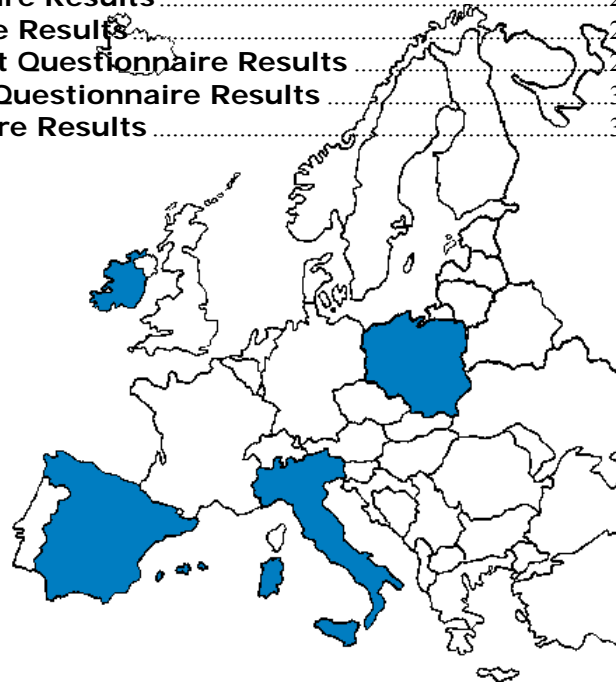
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Project Description

Project Title

Lifelong Information on Studies and Training for Educational Needs (L.I.S.T.E.N.)

Project Type and Duration

Grundtvig, 24 months from 01/08/2005 – 31/07/2007

Project Summary

The project aims to trace the motivations which drive adult learners coming from different experiences and situations to return to education, and in so doing to develop and increase the motivation towards learning of disadvantaged adults (young people socially marginalized, unemployed, people in prison etc.) and to improve the professional skills and competence of the teachers through the exchange of good practice. In the first year the partners had two international meetings and created a portfolio with the information of their experiences.

The experiences of the teachers, dealing with innovative approach, solution of particular problems, particularly motivating methodologies etc. were presented at the meeting in Cork, Ireland and were collected on CD-ROM. They were also presented on the project website and an online forum was created.

This is intended to encourage the teachers to use their abilities in the use of Information Technology as an educational tool and to encourage the use of the English language for participating students and teachers. During the second year the methodology of biography was used to motivate and encourage adult learners in their learning path. Students were invited to write their personal stories as adult learners. Every partner has chosen four biographies, these were translated into English and collected on CD-Rom and are presented here in this brochure.

The students compared their experiences in a workshop during the Cork meeting. In every meeting the host partner organised a number of educational visits including visits to a range of adult education institutes. A range of experts were invited to talk on aspects of adult education.

Project Aims

The concept of lifelong learning is a challenge we face as we look to Europe's future. Lifelong learning is something we all have to include in our private life and working career.

The world is changing all the time and people have to answer to the changing demands of working and social life. It is important to increase the motivation of adult learners, to encourage them to return to education and find out whether any similarity exists among people from different European countries and if the experience of adult learners is different.

There is a great deal to learn from the stories of adult learners, collected from the partners in this project. The other aspect of the project is to give adult education trainers the opportunity to share and learn from colleagues in Europe. It would be interesting to learn what motivates trainers to work in the lifelong learning sector, what are the main challenges faced by the adult education trainer, how is adult education organised in the partner countries and particularly in the region where the trainers work at the moment.



Project Objectives

- Analysis of the motivation of learning adults in returning to education.
- Analysis of the needs of the learning adults in order to identify common problems.
- Share methodologies in dealing with these problems.
- Provide a portfolio of learning support and resources for the learning adults to help them achieve their educational objectives developing information, guidance and counselling services not only by traditional methods but using ICT and other innovative approaches such as student learning biographies.
- Analyse whether the demands of the learning adults are being met by the existing structure and identify strategies at local level to fill the gaps.
- To recognise the necessity of flexibility in all the ranks and structures of school service in order to supply a more personalised learning process and so to give the students more opportunities to achieve their life plan.
- Strengthen the links between the school/college and the community and also with the local authority and the economic agencies in order to collaborate to achieve the objectives and develop common synergies.

Partners

- **Don Zefirino Iodi** (Italy) is a vocational secondary school providing training in Business Administration, Tourism and Social Services. This is done in cooperation with regional vocational training centres. The school offers additional training courses for adults, generally held in the evening. These courses give adults the opportunity to obtain a qualification diploma (in 2 or 3 years, depending on results and previous scholastic career) and an advanced diploma (in 3 or 5 years). The adult learners who seek education in the school are mainly workers wishing to improve their employment skills level, unemployed people, foreigners needing to obtain a vocational qualification and young people wanting to return to education. They also provide courses in the local prison and in the local criminal psychiatric hospital.



- **St. John's Central College** (Ireland) is a college of further education of training located in Cork City (Ireland). We have over ten years experience in the provision of courses to adult learners. Courses offered include Tourism, Architectural Draughting, Information Technology, Animal Care, Hairdressing, Multimedia and Interior Design. They also have an extensive work experience placement programme and maintain close links with employers. Students sit examinations at FETAC level 2, the Irish state examination for further education and also examinations are taken with City and Guilds, Rhodex, IATA etc. Their student population includes people who are long-term unemployed, single parents and employed people wishing to improve their skills level. They also have a strong commitment to a European dimension in education and have participated on both the Leonardo da Vinci and Comenius programmes.
- **Elsa Morante** (Italy) is a Vocational Secondary School for Business and Tourism Study which operates in Sassuolo (Italy). We have worked on several European programmes, in particular on the Grundtvig 1 "Apc on the road". The school offers many vocational courses in business and tourism studies and organises (together with local firms, but also abroad) periods of training for its students.

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The school has about 800 students, from the age of 14 to 19, and about 100 teachers. They have a wide experience in adult teaching by secondary school evening courses and immigrant literacy teaching opened to workers, unemployed and foreign people.

- **Gornoslaskie Centrum Edukacyjne** (Poland) is a school complex consisting of the public school for young students, the Centre of Continuing Education for adults and the Centre of Practical Education. GCE aims to supply teaching, training and continuing education to individuals and to the public sector in many fields. The school is certified to conduct all the final examinations within the general education as well as professional examinations. Within GCE structure acts Quality, Standardisation and Professional Counselling Laboratory. The school has a significant experience within EU programmes such as Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig 3.
- **IES Antonio José Cavanilles** (Spain) is a large urban secondary and further education school, with an increasing intake of students from immigrant origin and a socially disadvantaged environment; we have been actively working at reducing dropout rates and are currently involved in a project for students with any kind of learning disadvantages. At post-secondary level, a variety of courses is offered in Electronics, Telecommunications, Mechanical production and Maintenance Services to Industry, with no upper age limit. Long-term links with public institutions and local industry enable us to offer career advice, work-experience and apprenticeship training. Their work-experience system is closely monitored; in 2002 it received the accolade of the national organization AENOR., with the award for Quality Certificate in Norms ISO 9001:2000. They try to reach potential learners and offer a second chance to acquire basic training, the school is also an official examination centre for public access to further education. They are committed to European integration and have participated in Comenius projects.



Methodology

In order to achieve the primary purpose of this project a process of engagement with adult students was essential. This was achieved through actively encouraging the adult learners to participate in the project and through this process of engagement to actively seek to understand the motivation behind their decision to return to education and the difficulties they encountered in this journey. Students were asked to provide written biographies and these were presented by the students themselves at the project meetings in Cork, Ireland and in Reggio Emilia, Italy. A selection of these student biographies have been included below, however a substantial amount of additional information was gathered by simply talking to the individual students and discussing in more detail some of the issues raised in their biographies.



In addition a questionnaire was devised with the purpose of giving a broad overview of the views of adult learners in relation to motivation and the difficulties of returning to education. Initially we had envisaged producing a composite result of this questionnaire but as the educational situation of the

learners was different from country to country it was decided that this approach would not be of great value so a composite questionnaire results sheet for each country was produced and these are presented in the Appendix.

A very significant part of the project activity was the production of a website and online forum. This allowed partners to collect and share information and to disseminate project activities to the wider educational community. The website may be accessed at www.listenproject.net and the forum at www.listenproject.info. Both will be available until February 2008.



Four International project meetings were held over the duration of the project. These were in Gliwice Poland, Cork Ireland, Alicante Spain and Reggio Emilia Italy. These meetings enabled partners to exchange information and ideas, allowed students and teachers from the partner institutes to interact both with each other and with other interested parties, helped in the organisation of project activities and allowed partners to visit educational institutes not directly connected with the project. A very significant amount of information was gathered, disseminated and discussed through this forum



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Student Biographies



Ireland

Marlyn

My name is Marlyn. I am 21 years of age. I am originally from Templemore, Co. Tipperary Ireland but I am currently living in Cork. I completed my Leaving Certificate in 2003 and went on to study French and computers in Cork, which I successfully completed in 2005. In July 2005 I had my daughter Saskia and I took a year out to be with her. When Saskia was a year old I applied for a new directions course in St Johns Central College Cork. This course included childcare, maths, personnel effectiveness, information technology, arts and crafts and communications. I was accepted for this course and it commenced in September last. The course is a morning course (9:30-12:30), which I find great because I can spend the rest of the day with my daughter.

One of my main reasons for choosing this college was because they provided very good crèche facilities for my daughter. This meant I could study and further my education while my daughter was in crèche. I was very nervous at first starting this course as I thought everyone else would be 17/18 but thankfully there was a lot of girls my own age in the course. I was also a bit weary of going back to study after taking the year out as I thought it would be very difficult for me to get back into the hang of studying again but thankfully it wasn't. The lecturers helped me with any difficulties I had within the course and they would always give encouragement and advice when needed.

I feel very lucky that I have the opportunity to further my education and be able to pursue an office management course next year within St Johns with the help and support of St Johns and the facilities they provide.

Nuala

Growing up on a farm in Ireland gave me the chance to work with metal, as my father and brother done all their own metalwork, welding gates, etc. From that time on I have always been interested in working with metal when I left school I went to Art college and then went on to do a jewellery course but eventually I took a different career path and done care work which I was able to work at very easily while I was travelling aboard.

Eventually I came back to Ireland and St. Johns were advertising a Jewellery design and metal craft course. I applied successfully to the course. I found going back to college as a mature student was a little daunting as it was a while since I had been in full-time education, but once I got to know the teachers and students it was fine. Today, I love what I do, I really enjoy being able to work with metal again, especially copper, silver and gold. We have a lot of equipment in the workshop which I can use quite freely and unsupervised.

I am delighted that I got back to full time education and I would highly recommend it to anyone.

Laura

My name is Laura. I am a 25 year old student at St John's College. I am in my first year of the Post course. Post stands for Practical office skills and training.

I sat for my leaving certificate in 1991. I then went on to do a Pre-Engineering course but after doing 13 years of school I wanted a break from the books. So I didn't finish out I was 17 years old at the time and very unsure of what I wanted to do. So I thought a year or so out would help me decide and give me time to mature. I then feel pregnant at 18 and in 1999 I had my first daughter. With a baby weeping me busy school was not an option. I have since had another little girl who is now two years old.

There were two main things that finally encouraged me to go back.

- The support and help of my family.
- The course on offer.

I was made aware of this course when I received a leaflet through the post and the opportunity to do it really appealed to me because of a number of reasons.

The course is geared for young mothers. It works around the hectic schedules that we have and does all that it can to help manage between being a mother and a student.

For example class doesn't start each morning until 9.30 am. This is to allow the students to drop their children to schools and crèche. Finishing time is 12.30 pm which again is to suit school times.

With two children it's difficult to find quiet time to study but again the course has set aside a day in the school library to allow time to do assignments, modules and study. There is the use of computers, and the internet, also you can print off any info.

I would like to see the college introduce a greater range of course as at present we are limited to just two namely the post and New Directions courses. Maybe in time students will have a greater choice if more part-time course were to be made available in areas such as Tourism, Hairdressing and Crafts.

St John's College is the only college in the country that provide this type of course and I think it would be successful and helpful to so many other people if other colleges followed suit. I feel it would encourage a lot of people who many feel. They have no options to return to education.

At present St John's do not have a crèche within the grounds. But they are working towards it. Which I feel would be a lot more beneficial to students who have children and are attending the college.



Catherine

My name is Catherine. I am age 23 and have a 5 year-old son Nathan. I did my Leaving Certificate examination at age 16 and have been out of school 8 years. Nathan was born when I was 17.

Doing the "New Directions" course and hoping to do "Post Directions" in the future.

During my time on the New Directions Course (1 year) I found it difficult to study sometimes but I get great support from family especially in babysitting. I have not missed any days and have enjoyed making new friend and learning again.

If I could make a change it would be to have a Crèche facility available in the college grounds

Doing this course has given me opportunities in my life and I have had a fabulous amount of support. I choose this particular course because I live close to the college, the hours are convenient for my child's school and there is a financial incentive.

It would be fair to say that the "New directions" course has opened my eyes to future possibilities.

Additional Information

Some of the Irish students mentioned the New and Post directions course. The New Directions Course is a one year course with subjects like Art, Craft and Design, Computers, Child Development, Personal Effectiveness (Career and Life Planning), Communications and Maths. It is called New Directions as it gives a sample of a wide range of subjects and hence opens up 'new directions' for the students on the course. The New Directions Course is recommended to all young parents who are not in formal education at present and who would have completed Junior Certificate level of education or equivalent.

The Applied Computer Training Course (Post Directions) is a two year course with subjects like computers – spreadsheets, data entry, word processing, IT Skills, customer service, communications, information and administration, payroll- manual and computerised and work experience. The Applied Computer Training Course is recommended to young parents who have completed Leaving Cert but it is not essential if there is evidence of further education/training e.g. completed the New Directions Course or a good work history.

Both courses run from 9.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday. They are suitable for students aged 17 to 25 years old in receipt of the one parent family payment. It was initiated by a partnership that formed in 2001 between the Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA), the Local Employment Services (LES) and the City of Cork VEC (St. John's Central College. Research was undertaken in 2001 which identified a gap in service provision for young lone parents. The courses then began in St. John's Central College in 2002 a year later. It is a unique ground breaking initiative which began in 2002 and is the first course in Cork and in any VEC college in Ireland specifically aimed at meeting the needs of young parents aged 25 and under. These courses are unique in that they provide the exact supports required by young parents attending the courses. Free childcare is provided and a weekly attendance allowance of €31.80 is provided per week (for meal and travel etc.) which is obviously based on their attendance. The one parent family payment is not affected and other benefits e.g. rent allowance are not affected either. There is an extra bonus of €500 given at the end of the year for each student who completes the course with full attendance and it is deducted in accordance to their attendance throughout the year.

Italy

Sharon

My name is Sharon, I'm 18 and I was born in Milan, on the 6th of February. Since I was four I have been living in Reggio Emilia where at the moment I'm attending evening classes at Don Zefirino Iodi Institute, for Social Services, Tourism and Business. The evening course is only for Social Services so I'm studying to work in the Social service sector, or this is what I hope to do. It's all to decide when, one day I'll start looking for a job that I'll do for all my life.



Why did I choose the evening course? I really don't know. It's superficial to talk about it this way, but it's the truth. I prefer to look superficial than being a liar, but this is another story. I attended day classes from the first year to the fourth then, for different reasons I stopped believing in school and in the importance of studying and I finished the fourth year very badly and I found out that I had failed. I'm not really proud of it, in fact I feel ashamed about it, but I have accepted it on I want to go on. Probably I wasn't at ease in the regular classes. In my school the fourth and the fifth years are the most difficult, for the amount of the things to study that triple compared to the first years, and for the stage that are more important, and for many other reasons that go together with the technical elements of the school like the relationship with the other, the experiences, the social and public life and all the rest. The family changes, the new arrival, the fights with the parents and the deep desire of independence. Many small and meaningless things that change the **equilibrium** of a person. So I needed a target. And to get out of my daily life in the easiest way I knew.

I felt I couldn't face the day courses, more due to my personal problems than to the amount of study. When you are not at ease with yourself, you need to change, to do different things, go out with other people and know other realities, and this is what I've done. Too many people with whom I didn't get on and too many things I didn't like, too many silences, too much noise and too much disorder in people and things.

There was too much disorder in me, and during last year I changed a lot, even if I still have the same character. I felt I had to run away from what had been my life in the last 18 years and I wanted to have my life. Choosing the evening classes I've started my way to independence.

Maybe this is the reason or maybe not, I'm still trying to understand all the things that have happened to me, and when I get to school I ask myself, every time, why I'm there and not at home studying for the test of the following day. But I'm happy and I have no regrets. And here I feel better than in the morning classes. In the last years when I got to school there was always someone arguing even for very stupid reasons, that spoiled the morning destroying the harmony. For someone like me to listen to all these discussions and arguments was very negative. I like to get on with other people and in a class of more than twenty people with whom you have to stay for 8 or 9 hours, it's very important. It's stupid to fight or argue. And you have to stand annoying behaviour.

In the evening class things are different. First of all people are older and more mature, they don't care for stupid things like "you've copied my test" "you've been out with my boyfriend" and this idea cheers me up every time I enter the classroom. I must admit that at the beginning it was a bit strange to be part of a group with a life so different from mine, as the majority of them are married with children, other have worked for many years and those who are younger have already chosen a life style like the one I've chosen now, but they've made their choice long time ago. Their lifestyle is that of an adult and I still feel like a child. All the people that I meet in the evening, going to school, starting from my classmates to all the other students, age ages ahead of me, and I have little to do with them, but it's better this way. There aren't many people of my age with whom I can have a good relationship, I mean that I'm not really interested on the last dress of D&G or on the singer of that music band. There have been so many things in my life, doors have opened and others have closed, I've known people

So evening classes have been a very good choice for me, they've helped me to grow up and they've put me in touch with great people. They have been step-fathers and mothers, or step-sister and brothers; people who can pass strong feelings. Another important thing is that in evening classes there aren't fights but there is fun. And the teachers are very nice too, they help us and they push us in the right way.

Maybe this is due to the fact that they also try to understand us and our problems, the why and how and everything. They're good I think it's easier for them to teach to people of the same age and they also laugh, a thing that not many teachers do in day classes. Even is also in day classes I think that our teachers are very good, you can feel that they do their job because they like it and not only for the wages. There aren't many people who work with real passion and someone said the passion fades away with time and you start thinking only about the bills you have to pay. I don't believe it, I think that if you want everything can be done with passion. When a person begins a job with passion because he likes it, he just has to keep on thinking about it in the same way because when you start thinking about the money everything becomes more difficult and tiring. Just as at school. If you start without passion, you'll never like it and you'll always have bad results and difficulties in reaching your targets. But if you start it with passion than you'll reach the good results you deserve and everything will become easier to stand. You could say that the person talking is the one who's lost a year, but this is exactly why I can say it. Because I started my fourth year with the idea of doing nothing, of letting everything go and waiting for something falling from the sky to help me find the energy I had lost. Nothing fell from the sky but the school hit me and so I found again the energy. Now I am a bit confused. It has been a strange year: during the last months I've been trying to understand what I really want in my life and it's not really easy to understand it, especially at my age, when you think you can do everything with little effort and when the world seems like a launching pad for young people looking for success and a life full of fulfilled dreams. Someone only wants a husband and a family, someone wants to have his own company, someone wants to become a showman. We all have different dreams and different hopes all decisions we have to take: university, work, trips courses.

I've really made a big mess in these last months: I forgot my targets and my dreams and all the hopes that I had behaving like a teenager facing the problems of her age.

But I wasn't like that before. I've always tried to stick to the future that I wanted leaving out the things that were normal for the other, but that for me were only an obstacle. Always good and quiet, willing to organise step by step all my life, not thinking that that might have been delayed, but not my happiness. Then all of a sudden I changed my life, thinking that my future was too uncertain, too far away and maybe not so important and maybe my dreams would have been enough to create me one. I had in six months all the thoughts that one has between 14 and 19, and it was crazy: I had fun but the people around me have suffered and now I'm sorry for that. I've understood many things, I have accepted situations that I didn't like and I've found to courage to talk to my family and express what I really felt but I always tried to deny. I'm a mess, I'm not good at expressing my feelings, I keep them all inside and I try to find a balance but I don't trust anybody. I never tell anything to anyone, and I only laugh and have fun and try not to get involved in any unpleasant situation, especially with my friends. Whenever we discuss, among us, I always step back to avoid discussion and useless fights, until I, in the end, break out and say everything. This is what it is now, I've stepped back for a long time and now everything is coming out I burst, I did what I had to do, I had a moment of great excitement when everything was important and nobody had to interfere. On September I calmed down. On September I started again with my normal rhythm but what I'm sorry for is that I have destroyed something that could have been my future, just for my stupid desire to feel alive and free. And now I feel just as if I were attending my first year of secondary school and if I had to start all over again, and I only wish to do what I really feel but I'm also frightened by the idea of losing and I don't want to lose.



I'm sorry for my parents that have been the main target of my rebellion. I have so many things to say and apologise I would like to make, first of all to myself, for not having fully lived my life for the mistakes that I shouldn't have done, but now I only want to finish the school, get my diploma and start a new life. I want so many wonderful things for my life, I want to travel, to see many new things, know new people. I want a good job and maybe go to university get a degree, and have a family. I want the people who have helped me and still are doing it, to be proud of what they've done, and I want my parents to be more relaxed and happy, as they don't know where I might be next year. We'll see, I don't want to plan too much, but I'll do my best to have a happy future, for me.

Maurizio

I'm Maurizio, I'm 22 and I'm from Naples and I have many dreams in the drawer. Till the age of 19 I lived in my home town and then I moved to Reggio Emilia. Looking back at my childhood I would define it a happy time but troubled. I grew up with a group of friends with whom I divided many nice and bad moments. More than once I risked to break my head or getting sung by bees because to lively or careless. The person who's been near me in this period of my life was my mother with whom I've always had a very good relationship. Getting on with age my group of friends hasn't changed what has changed is my way of being and doing things, but I haven't stopped playing of having fun, on the contrary I've found new interests: soccer, basket and volleyball, tennis and everything that has to do with sport and movement.

Of my Media school I remember the plays realised with the help of our teachers where I and two other classmates were always called to play funny parts and still today when I look at the cassettes I can't help laughing. Those to mates are still my best friends. Although my troubled past today I'm a very quiet boy, reliable and with clear ideas about my future. I've been living in Reggio Emilia for three years, I moved here when I met my girlfriend and she's given me the strength and the will to change my future. I've found a job that satisfies me and gives me the chance to be independent.

I live alone in a one room flat, and this has given me the chance to understand responsibilities that I didn't understand before, when I lived with my family and I didn't need to take care of all the daily aspects of life (the rent, the shopping and the cleaning) My life in this new town and my being more mature have made me understand the mistakes I've done in my past and I'm referring to leaving the school when I was a teenager. I've understood now that it's never too late and that the desire to make up with the time lost is big, and I'm studying in an evening course to become a social Service Operator and I'm already attending the third year. My target is to get a diploma and improve my future. Besides in my projects there is the desire to travel and know the world, to buy a house, have a family and live a happy and quiet life.

Antonio

My name is Antonio and I'm 22. I've never been very good at school, I still remember how anxious I was in my first classes when I wasn't ready for an oral test or when every year, toward the middle of the second term, I was the first on the list of the failing ones. This caused me a strong feeling of uncertainty that grew even stronger with time. When I was 18, after having failed in the third year (I had already withdrawn on the first one) due to some family problems, I decided to leave school to help my family economically, as I had developed the idea that I wasn't good for school, that I didn't have the right attitude. I started working, but this didn't make me feel better, I didn't like my job and my ghost still hunted me. There was a voice inside me which kept saying that I wasn't good enough that I would never have done anything good, and that I was a failure. From a rational point of view things didn't work either, if I wasn't happy with my job, what else could I do? The chances for a boy like me without helps, studies, or experience aren't many, an eighteen years old has many dreams and wishes but at that time everything seemed out of reach. With a diploma everything would have been easier.

So, a bit dreaming and a bit uncertain, in September I enrolled for the first time to the evening classes. It was a real disaster, I was offered the possibility to study for the third and fourth year together but the day of the exam, I didn't go, because I was so frightened by the idea of failing that I even refused to try. For me this was a tragedy, I imagined a very sad future, without satisfaction, or emotions. It was not just for the diploma, but the school could have been the start to a new kind of life, the key to enter my dreams, the alternative would have been a new life. I was a bricklayer, a tiring job where you work 8,9,10 hours and when you come home you only have time to rest.

I lost a lot of friends. But I couldn't give up, there was a chance in front of me and I wanted to take it. I waited for the next September and I changed school, but I failed again. Another withdrawal just because I couldn't do the class tests because I was afraid I wouldn't pass them. I was psychologically destroyed, surely due to my sensitive character. I remember it as a very black

moment, and someone who was planning a nice future to change the present, in this situation, repeated for two years, loses hopes. I felt isolated, and I wonder, was it depression? In the following months I changed my job. I wasn't what I wanted but it gave me more free time and as my doubts were consuming me, I decided to try again with school. In September 2004 I went back to school. After a few weeks I had a written test, the same that caused me so much fear the former year and that caused my dropping out. It took me 4 days to study 8 pages. Very slowly, I found the studying method I had never had. I passed the test with a fair mark, but this was not important, the important thing was that I did face it and I didn't drop out!

I remember that on the trip home I felt a unique sensation, I felt strong. It was the first time I had thought that the diploma was not out of reach. I could smell the autumn and in my head were playing the nicest songs I knew (I'm a megalomaniac of course). Every test was better than the former, and while I was following the path of the previous year, something in me was changing, the fear of going wrong was further, I was more interested, I was getting good responses not only at school but also on the psychological side. I began considering me differently and I noticed that also the others were doing so. It was in this moment that I was really wondering about evening classes. The trust of many of my teachers has helped me so much, for me it's like being at "home". I'm attending the fifth year: I've confirmed my new sensation, this is: I think I'm capable not only to get the diploma but also to continue. I'd like to study psychology, my passion, but it's not fixed, I want time to decide considering also the other aspects of my life, that have changed in these years, and have changed me too.

Different experiences have given and will give life to a new Antonio, who thinks he can do it, that you never have to give up, and that is ready to start this new road, that everyone must walk to leave what he was and to become what he wants to be. I'll be sorry in July when I'll have to leave school, there is a deep bond, and I'll miss many people and things, but if someone asked me what they represented for me, I would have a ready answer: rebirth

Anna

My name is Anna and I was born on 26th June 1968, at 8 o'clock of a Saturday morning at Reggio Emilia Hospital. I lived up to the age of six years, with my parents and my sister, in San Giovanni of Querciola, a small village on the hills of Reggio Emilia. I still remember well that old big house, the stable, the smell of hay in summer, chickens in the yard and my mother and father taking care of the cows. Since their work took place at home their presence has always been important in my life and my sister's as well.

In that place that saw me and my sister growing up, I learnt about the big, small wonders of nature. I made a lot of important discoveries, day after day, and these enriched myself making me understand how important nature is, even if a lot of people ignore this. I still remember, when aging up in my childhood, what a wonder was for me to discover the tiny marvels that my eyes could meet in ordinary day life, a field of corn, the birth of a calf, the cock call in the morning. These experiences accompanied my childhood up to the age of six; at that stage my parents decided, for economic reasons, helped by an uncle of mine, to leave the farm and move to the village.

The leave from that country world, that for me was something like heaven, left a sense of non-existence within me. I still see the image of that small girl standing in front of that big house saying farewell with her small hand. The distress for leaving that place and everything concerned with it was really great. A new chapter of my life began. At that time a fixed salary for my father made our life more secure and happy. My mother as a housewife stood with us at home and at that time my school life began.

As a child I was very polite but also very shy. My father was a person of great moral value but was rather severe with his two small girls, especially with me as I was the first born. My mother, on the contrary, was the classical housewife that took care of the house and of her two daughters, as usually all women did at that time. Anyway, when I was eight years old, she decided to go to work in a factory, in order to contribute to the family economy, so it was to me to learn to face the house problems and to learn, as my mother still says today, all the things that a woman must know.

The persons that had an important impact on my life have been, for sure, my mother, my father and also my school teachers. My mother has always been for me a great example of tolerance. My father, on the contrary had a lot of manly qualities and a great physical strength but was less inclined to tolerate. The two came from very different experiences since my mother had grown up without knowing my grandmother since she had died just a few months after my mother's birth. Her father had died when she was only fifteen and she had to start working very young in order to scratch for a living. My father, on the contrary, enjoyed the protection of his parents. He had many brothers and sisters but he too had many problems, heavy jobs and poverty as well. The forties, the years just after the war, paid for the consequences of the war itself. Anyway my father, after all, had always something to put under his teeth. They also came from two different regions of Italy. I remember well my mother always complaining for the loss of her mother; she spoke often about my granny and telling all the stories about her, information received from other relatives.

The year of my elementary school passed on with the change of three different schools and therefore three different teachers. Before going to live into town I attended only a part of the first class with a teacher who, according to what my mother told me later, had not a great opinion about my intelligence; probably it was mainly due to the fact that I had grown in an isolated environment and therefore I was somebody different than an actual "city girl!" I finished the first class and the second in another village. The third and the fourth in another place too. It was there that I was lucky enough to meet a teacher and a person that still today I am in contact with and who I consider at the base not only of my school education. She has been so important for me both from an affective and psychological point of view. She was not only a teacher but also a mother to me and the other pupils of my class. In that teacher I found the same qualities of my mother, her sweetness, her patience, her teaching, her unconditioned love. Knowing how to donate, always, even when it seemed impossible and moreover she granted me a feeling of self assurance that was very important for me.

The relation with my sister has always been somehow conflictual since when we were children. Though loving each other a slight sense of jealousy has always existed between us. As far as I am concerned, my attitude with my sister was more that of a mother than that of a sister. I considered unjust the fact that my mother always defended my sister and justified her for anything



she was doing. She was allowed to make mistakes whereas I was always expected to behave with responsibility. After all I might say that we sisters had very few qualities in common. We were rather different from each other since when we were very young. In those years we moved once again and went to another village not so far away. We went to live in a farmhouse where my father did the work he had always loved and that he had learnt from his parents: being a farmer.

Thanks to my father and to his job I learnt how to love nature and respect it. I also learnt how to economize and not to spend too much in everyday life. I discovered, in those years a lot of things that children of nowadays only learn from the schoolbooks. At this stage of my life, childhood, things were not so easy. My parents went into the village but had debts to settle. Their income was not great and debts were paid in a long term, with their labour. They have always been honest people and good persons, even too good, to the extent that more than one took advantage of this part of their character. This aspect of their character cost them also some money and I had to struggle a lot to change their behaviour. These economical difficulties had a great impact on me and I have often made renunciations in order to help my parents.

When I was nine I started learning many new things, knitting, for instance, learnt from my school teacher realising then a whole bed blanket. I learnt how to make cakes. At family parties such as my holy communion and my sister's as well, all the food was prepared by my mother and myself. My sister was not so fond of this and did prefer to play with dolls. My preferred games, even at school always involved other people and took place mainly in the open air. I also had a great interest in learning new things especially listening to the stories of old people who came often to our home or were neighbours. I loved reading. School for me was so important. Anyway I also loved to dream. It often happened to me to write compositions, in class, just by looking outside the windows and getting lost with my mind in nature. The year before the beginning of my childhood was marked by the death of my grandfather, that I always remember as a suffering person and, at the same time, a victim of the string character of my grand-mother. I still remember well my father taking care of him during his illness and agony, notwithstanding the many brothers he had. This assistance of my father during my grand-father agony made me understand how important is love for parents. I suffered a lot that loss and I was terrorized by death for a long time.

When I passed to the high school, years went on rather quickly. My parents were rather severe with me. It was easy to get a leave to go out. I was allowed to go to school, to the church and to make some bike ride. During that time I felt somehow like a prisoner. I was afraid that I should never meet any boyfriend. But later on I realised that they were mainly concerned in protecting me. My days passed away studying, helping my mother, helping my sister with her homework. From time to time I was allowed to go out with some girlfriends when they did not come to my house. During these years it was very difficult to understand the position of my parents mainly because they simply said "no" without any further explanation. I therefore was looking forward to become adult considering this as a target for getting my freedom. Unfortunately after some years we moved once again to another place though losing all my school friends. This new change had an important effect on me. I went to the upper high school. At that time I saw my future as a mission to help other people. The school I had chosen, a professional school would allow me to attend, later on, a school for nurses. Unfortunately, at the end of the second class, my family had to face an enormous problem that caused me to leave the school and start working in order to help them. At the age of sixteen I had already a full-day work. Owing to the problems occurred within my family I found an escape by getting in love with a man who, at the age of nineteen became my husband. It was very difficult to convince my father but seeing how stubborn I was he had to accept the situation. After my marriage I have made many different works but in my opinion the one that gave me the best experience is direct selling. I mean selling directly to customers by visiting families in their houses. This type of work helped me a lot in growing professionally and making different experiences. This work also allowed me to meet a lot of different people and I learnt how to socialize in many different situations. I can really say that it has been a good life school. I took with me this type of experience in many other working situations and it helped me a lot.

I still remember the shy young girl, getting red in meeting new people, to become stronger and stronger, more tenacious and so undergoing a complete metamorphosis. This long process was not easy at all and required a lot of courage but at the end I realised that this experience was so important. I have always given a lot of importance to competence in work, I accepted also modest jobs but that allowed me to get near competent people from whom I could receive an intellectual and professional enrichment. This is still in my mind today and I always try my best to become a better person.

My son Federico was born when I was twenty-two. Now he is fifteen years old and attends his second class in the upper high school. I attend myself the same class but in the evening after work, it's an evening school. As a matter of fact I decided to go back to school because I felt I needed this. I intend to complete my school education that I was compelled to interrupt a long time ago.

I have always thought that staying with other people brings you to an important personal enrichment. Especially when you meet men and women with different educations and working experiences. This stimulates our mind and allow us to see the whole world from a different point of view. A new vision with endless possibilities of being part of this world. My working life had began with heavy jobs that anyway, for sure, taught me to become a person always aiming ahead, notwithstanding anything. Therefore I can affirm that what I have got is all due to my stubbornness but also with the help of other people. Sufferings gave me real moments of distress and felt sometimes hopeless. But still today I think that behind any darkness there still exists light. At the age of sixteen I already a strong character but also many negative qualities. For instance I was thinking that I could change other people's character, trying to impose my ideas and that future events could be mastered according to my will. Real life was, on the contrary, much different and it cost me a lot to take forward my dignity and values of honesty. Qualities that today find a scarce place in this world. I still am anyway sometimes very ingenuous about this. What helped me a lot to overcome many difficult moments was my work where I had many chances to meet new people, have new relations. These new relations are usually very stimulating and I always try to get out them the most positive aspects, even if, sometimes, situations do not really look like that.

Today I am working in a house for old people. I am in charge of the telephone operation and also I take care of new-coming guests and their relatives. I am involved with informative operation with use of the telephone and personal computer as well sometimes with the aid of Internet. I am fully involved with my work and according to the requirement of my job I always try to improve it also inventing new services. I must say that I have become somehow important there, to the extent that when I am at home they often call me in order to get information and also to know when I shall be back. About three years ago I passed an exam, within my working structure, in order to have a better position there. I passed the exam with flying colours and I was the first of all. My position was actually improved since I got the right to carry on my job always inside the same structure and I



was qualified as executor of the reception services. When I first started working for this organisation, my job was completely different. I worked in the kitchen preparing the meals for the old people, about sixty, living in that structure. I was compelled to leave that job that I like very much, for health problems. As a matter of fact I fell ill and had to undergo two different surgical operations in two years. At the time I decided to be a cooking chef and I enrolled for a special cooking course with a duration of nine hundred hours. During the day I attended this cooking school and during the night I had a provisional job in a pub, which, anyway was rather heavy for me. At home there was somebody who helped me but my son was still very young and that type of life did not allow me to take care of him as I would. That cooking course allowed me also to take part in two special working stages, one in an important restaurant in Riccione and the other in an important coking school in Estoril, Portugal. This educational experience gave me some important bases in this new field of work and an excellent theoretical-practical preparation. My actual activity helped me to correct some aspects of my character. Now I can inter-act without any difficulty with other people. I have learnt how to be tolerant. I am less impulsive now. I usually count up to ten before speaking! I now understand well what empathy is and I have acquired the capacity of improving my intellectual balance. Besides my main job, I have also another personal job in direct selling. The firm for which I work produces natural foods and phyto-extracts for cosmesis as well. I have been working for this company for more than ten years and, at the moment I am at the head of a group of collaborators with whom I have a very strict working relationship. This second job of mine allows me to get in touch with an always-increasing number of customers. Most of them are women and all well assorted. For this job I often take part to special professional up-dating courses about different subjects such as, for instance, body anatomy, alimentation techniques, marketing, etc. Since September 2005 I have been attending Don Zeffirino Iodi night school studying to become a technician of social services and getting the high school degree. I am learning, day after day a lot of interesting subjects, My class companions are splendid and also teachers are wonderful and prepared to lead us to the end of this not-so-easy project.



I am studying with great willingness and interest. I love learning just because “I want it”. My target is to understand which are the social dynamics, the adequate behaviours enforce in order to improve relationships with other people in an ever-changing society. I think and never forget that in this life of mine I have an important task, not only from a professional point of view but also personal, a task that I will carry on with great responsibility towards my work but also for being and educative example for my son. The knowledge I acquire at school also supply me with new weapons to be used to find a solution to the many problems I might meet everyday in my personal and working life. Experience and new knowledge give a new competence which is also the best tool for becoming really professionals. When I finish this school I will for sure see new opportunities in front of me. I like very much my actual job but in this new world, always in evolution, I am sure that new perspectives could arise, for me and for the people with whom I could possibly have a working collaboration in the future. My intention would be to develop any kind of activity involved with social life. Nothing of what I will learn will be lost. Learn and keep it with you, just in case. My mind is like a library with a lot of new and old books, there ready to be read and used when the right moment come. I would like to emphasize the fact that, though I am basically an optimist, studying has always contributed in my growth, pushing me in looking always ahead, in having confidence in life notwithstanding all the problems I have been passing through. Now I want to conclude with a little consideration about myself today in comparison with yesterday. I have come to the conclusion that being tolerant in life is mighty important. My strong standpoints, all my fierce battles were only the expression of what I am not. Today I am more positive I try to evaluate well before taking any definite position and even if I think that perfection does not exist I try to bring to an end anything I begin to do. My vision of the world is more positive, I feel that persons can make a difference and that together we could climb on top of the mountains even when the way looks so difficult. My motto is “never too late”! My will and stubbornness will allow me, with the help of God, to reach my actual important final target: getting my Upper High School diploma. In that moment I will dedicate it to the memory of my father, who always wanted me to do that, to my son who is the most important reason of my life, to my mother and to me as well that now I can accept for what I actually am.

I want to thank all my schoolmates that for me are also a reason for personal enrichment and collaboration, the vital lymph for helping each other, the diversities that, at the end represent the unity of the whole class. Many thanks also to all our teachers that are accompanying us along this important journey and for, me a great GOOD LUCK!!!!!!

L.I.S.T.E.N.

Poland

The Polish students were asked to answer the following questions in their essay: *What motivated me to decide to continue my education? What are the difficulties and how to overcome them? What are my further plans?*



Tomasz

As soon as I heard the topic of this essay I immediately thought to myself: it must have been “bumpy”. And it really was, which I am going to prove later on. I have to admit that nothing has changed in this matter. The present stage of my education which is attending tourism class at the GCE is temporary. It means a temporary stage between what I had to complete (V LO – Grammar School) and what I’d like to happen in my future life which is taking up university studies. During my secondary education at V LO I didn’t even take into account the fact that my plans might not come true. Nobody did. I do remember “spinning out” plans and visions with friends after passing successfully the “matura” exam, the ones in which there was no place for surprise/ We were all supposed to get to university, some of us even to do the same courses. We were supposed to remain a pack of good friends, to meet frequently long after finishing secondary school. Once I was talking to Peter, my best friend, in private. We both knew our common friendship would not last forever. We were pretty sure though that getting into university would be a piece of cake. But it wasn’t.

To understand my problem clearly I’m afraid I have to start from the beginning. In my secondary school I attended a math/physics class because I liked learning exact sciences. While doing the 3rd class something strange happened: my interests changed completely. I started showing more interests for the Arts: Polish, social science, also biology. I took an interest in other spheres of life such as psychology. And I decided to study it. I thought it was a good choice because I consider myself to be an observant person, able to show empathy. My friends confirmed me in my decision. I stopped thinking about other solutions. I thought I was the right person to become a psychologist. The first problems started as soon as I found out about the entrance exam: I had to do the reading comprehension test, one of the first examples of such a test in Poland. It was quite a problem to find a suitable material in order to get prepared for the test. After some time of unsuccessful research I decided to quit. I sat for the exam thinking it was some kind of intelligence test. Unfortunately I had not taken into account the 1300 candidates applying for 100 entries. I was supposed to get 92% pass to be admitted. I lacked 3 points. I didn’t break down but the happiness and the carelessness of the past few months burst like a soap-bubble. I didn’t doubt that only very intelligent people had been admitted, but I preferred not to think that among them there might be those who were not competent at all. As. A.Proulx says: “If you can’t fix it, you got to stand it”. And I did so, but there was a problem what I was going to do? I didn’t want to join the Army so I decided to start doing a 2-year’s tourism course. Studying tourism was not what I really wanted to do but at the same time I wanted to take up something nice and easy to study, so that I wouldn’t mind giving up after a year because I still dreamt of going to university. Besides it seemed to me that doing tourism course was worthwhile since Poland joined the European Union.

I had mixed feelings about doing the first year. I still felt I didn’t belong there. Besides I suffered a lot because of not being able to attend a university. Well, the following year I failed too. Other candidates turned out to be better than me. Besides there were too many of them again. I was surprised by a very high level of the examination; it was much more difficult than the previous one. And I had studied so much doing the preparatory tests. In spite of all that I lacked some points – many more than previously. I had nothing. All I could do was to complete my tourism course and to „spin out” new plans. In half a years time I am going to sit for a psychology entrance exam. Why am I so stubborn? Because I think that you have to do what you like. And only then can you do it really well! And the rest will come, I believe. I’ve always gone by this rule in my life, even when I had to decide which class to choose at the secondary school. I don’t regret it, it was the best decision I could make. I met fantastic people and I realized I wanted to do something different in my life.

The decision to continue my education was obvious to me. I would do it even if I didn’t have to; even if the unemployment rate was 0% and even if they made me work. I have always been ambitious and if I take something up, it means for good! That is why it is so difficult for me to take into account other options, and the tourism course is something provisional.

I realize that what I have been writing about is not too optimistic. Yet the experience connected with the process of my education has forced me to use the grim style. It doesn’t mean of course that I am becoming more and more pessimistic and I feel blue. This period has thought me a lot. First of all I have come to a conclusion that the world doesn’t look that black. I’ve even taken to the tourism course if I may say so, although it is not my main interest. And I know that when my financial situation improves, I’ll be travelling a lot – I wish it would come true. Quite unexpectedly, at the time of parliamentary elections, I took interest in politics. And because I have always been attracted to it, I’ve decided to study political science as well. And I have to revise the social science issues as well as the history of the XIX and XX century, which quite accidentally cover with the requirements for the social science faculty. So I’ll try my luck there too. The past 2 years taught me submissiveness. I’ve got a “rescue” plan: I’ll be study where I’m admitted. As for me, I will do my best so that it can happen. I’m sure everything will be all right and if you believe strongly in something then it will come true.

There’s one teacher who always tells us that she wouldn’t like to be in our shoes. She means problems in gaining suitable education, problems getting a job. She says that if you want to achieve something you must really try your best. But I wonder whether it’s so bad to try oneself best? Is it really so bad?

Marta

My way of gaining education started when I was born – 6th Nov. 1983. As every child I was deeply interested in the surrounding world and tried to understand it. From my parents and my elder brother. I know that as every baby I was willing to learn to sit, stand, walk and speak at any price. I learnt to speak very fast. When I was 11 months old I could already pronounce the “R” in many Polish words. My very first Polish sentence was uttered in quite a dramatic situation. I was almost 18 months old and it was the first time of Martial law. My mom took me to the butcher’s to get some meat which was in short supply then. The shop was full of nervous people. As soon as my mom entered the shop I managed to let out a loud voice addressing the shop-assistant: “Give me some ham, will you?” The people around changed their disposition immediately. They weren’t furious anymore, they became friendly and amused. I must say my mom was easily recognisable long after this incident. As you can see readiness to cope with problems in different situations as well as mastering new skills (particularly in terms of communication) seemed to be inborn qualities in my case.



As I see things now, after so many years that have passed, I am sure it was my 10-year-elder brother who motivated me to acquire knowledge. Of course he didn’t realise that. Neither did I. But his attitude, the fact that he was a diligent pupil at school, all that was a pattern to follow for me. Because both my parents and my grandmother were very demanding and taught me how important education was in everyday life, I was sent to a nursery school at the age of 3. It was then that I realized that both effort and persistence bring good results. It was also then that I learnt how to cope with my first defeats. As I have mentioned earlier, I admired my brother so much. He was an authority to me. He motivated me to study. And because I wanted to be so similar to him in everything, I learnt greedily every poem, every song. I started reading and writing when I was a little girl and it was dream to start attending school. Finally in 1990 my everlasting dream came true and I started my primary school education in SP no 12 in Zabrze, which I completed in 1998. Meanwhile my fantastic brother managed to complete his education thoroughly, graduating from a university. As for me, the way of gaining education was still ahead of me. While attending primary and secondary schools I perceived studying at university level as something remote and difficult to achieve. But since my brother tidied over the difficulties, I decided to follow the same path too.

After finishing primary school, I attended II LO (Grammar School) in Zabrze between 1998-2002. I chose a class offering an advance programme in the English language. While being in the final class I started my adult life and had to decide what to do next. It was a stressful period in my life. Finally I decided to take up technical studies at the Silesian Institute of Technology in Gliwice. Having passed all the necessary entrance exams I was admitted and started doing the first semester of my studies in 2002. It was quite a challenge for me to change from being a secondary school student into being a university one. To tell you the truth, aspiring for having superior education is only one of the aspects of attending this school. For me being at university is tantamount to benefiting from being an adult person and still having dreams. I spend this period of life developing my interests and meeting new friends, which means I have time both for learning and having fun.

I attach a lot of importance to learning English. I’ve been attending BRITAM Foreign Language School in Zabrze since 1998 and I’ve finished doing a CAE course. At the same time I am improving my German skills because I realize that graduating from university without mastering a foreign language has no sense at all. I want to improve myself and I’ve decided not to limit myself only to studying at one faculty. In 2005, in relation with being interested in doing an IT course I enrolled in GCE – Upper Silesian Educational Centre in Gliwice.

I am fully convinced that my knowledge of the subject is not useful if it is not supported by taking up professional practice. It’s a wonderful way of getting experience, a chance to prove that my choice is correct and by the way it looks nice in CV. In 2005 I had a chance to serve my apprenticeship in EKO-WAP’ enterprise, during which I could take advantage of my practical skills. I am looking forward to further professional practice, but my biggest dream is to have one abroad. Unfortunately it is hardly possible as I don’t have sufficient financial means. As for as I know a scholarship from domestic or international institutions is available but there are always too many applicants. Since I consider myself a real European, a person who is curious about the world and different cultures, I will do my best to fulfil my dream.

My dream is to get an original job. I like travelling and meeting people so having a monotonous office job where you have to sit for 8 or more hours doesn’t seem to be an interesting prospect. That is why I knew that obtaining a MSc title in engineering is not what I want to be satisfied with. It’s not enough. I want to go further. I realize I have to improve my professional qualification, increase my mobility. Most probably I’ll take up post-graduate studies, because completing them will allow me to find an interesting job. I’ve been thinking of taking up course connected with the EU for example EU Management Project Course. I’d like to get a successful both in professional and private life. I realize it will be difficult, because the present job market is undoubtedly an employer’s market – there are hundreds of candidates applying for one job offer appearing in the press.

Yet meeting people who have been successful motivates me to be more active and strengthens my conviction that notably everything in my life depends on me. I frequently analyse my past achievements in terms of effective use of time and I have to admit I do waste a lot of it doing things which do not bring me near to my final goals. I try to limit them. Yet I realize I am not a systematic person and I don’t know how to administer time. I’d like to change this. Moreover I’d like to be able to gain knowledge more effectively. It’s worth taking full advantage of your time, commitments and achievements. I’d like to work more effectively because I want to be satisfied with reaching the final goal, I’d like to please “those dear and near” and have a chance to get a good job.

I would also like to say that my decision concerning lifelong education is caused by the fear of being unemployed. In the future I wouldn’t really like to be a registration number in a job office. In spite of all that I believe I’ll be able to get a success, both in my professional and private life. Anyway I don’t give up my dreams because life without dreams is sad and grey. I’m sure I won’t let it happen!

Izabella

Education is very important to me now. I understand it as the amount of knowledge we have acquired in the process of learning. It helps us shape our character, enables us to get to know the world function effectively in it. Of course it is not only the effect of learning at school but also the effect of self-education which manifests itself in our own interests, needs and experience.



So what was my own way like? As a teenager I did not pay too much importance to learning. It wasn't as important to me as it is now. I seized the day and nothing was important to me. My education had its ups and downs but bitter tears and peals of laughter were also part of it. But I have to say I paid the price I had not expected for my irresponsible approach towards life and education. While at a primary school I was a good student. Everybody liked me, I was polite and always prepared for lessons. My teacher had a positive opinion of me. I didn't have any problem in learning things, I particularly like attending IT and foreign language classes. There were a few computers at school and we used to sit 3 or 4 people at one stand, but I did my best and applied myself to learning. I attended extra private English lessons and I studied German at school. It is clear to me that learning English has been and still is a pleasure. So I finished going to primary school. Then I chose grammar school. It was a period of change. I met so many different people there and at the beginning everybody was keen on getting into the teachers favour. I found the first two years there really good. I did my best, studied as much as I could. After holidays everything changed and it was a turning point in my life. I changed myself. My mother lost control over me. I think I lost it myself too. Now I am unable to explain why it happened so, why I behaved like that.

In September school started again. The teachers did not understand my behaviour, some of them tried to approach me., others, on the contrary, did nothing. The only person who started vexing and humiliating me was my German teacher. It was so frustrating to know that we were all dependent on him and that his pestering on us was such an amusing activity for him. It was because of him that I started skipping the lessons. I was completely unwilling to attend his classes, I really preferred to go somewhere else and have some fun. It may seem an excuse but they were sufficient arguments for a teenager who is going through the period of adolescence and listens to her friends' advice. As a consequence I didn't get a credit for the course and I didn't want to repeat the class on account of my German teacher. I knew I would have problems finding a suitable school. Anyway nobody wants to work with truants. I felt miserable and my friends were gone. Besides I knew I had let my mom down. She said that since I felt being an adult, a person who wanted to be independent, I should start taking careful decisions. A friend of mine told me about a secondary school for adult learners in Wróblewskiego Street. She had a high opinion of it as she had attended it herself. I thought I had nothing to lose so I enrolled. I was admitted and felt overjoyed. And here another turning point took place in my life. Evening school was different from day school in many ways: ever since we started attending it was clear that we were surprised to count on ourselves, we were attending a school for adults where non-attendance was to be explained by ourselves and where we were held responsible for our own actions. The teachers were both demanding and understanding and what is more important treated us like human beings and not like a bunch of thoughtless kids. There were plenty older students at my school. At first I thought I didn't belong there but after some time I realized that thanks to it I started being more responsible. I had a wonderful form master who knew how to talk to us and the way she imparted knowledge to her students was particularly interesting. I have wonderful memories connected with that school... and it was then that I really felt like continuing my further education. But I missed my school, attending classes, seeing people. For the first time I really felt like coming back and starting my education anew.

I chose the GCE and enrolled at the last possible moment. I couldn't study IT as the list of students had already been closed. I took up Accountancy instead. I chose extra mural studies because my mom was only available at the weekend. During the day I took care of my daughter and studied in the evenings. I met so many wonderful people there. Teachers too. Some of them are so dedicated to school and their students. My daughter grew so fast that it was possible for me to take up evening classes. I finally started studying IT which is what I always wanted to do. I'm doing my best to reconcile what I care about with what is important to me. I have to say that I can manage although I don't want to say it's so simple. Each day I have to overcome the difficulties every single mother can have but I am happy. I study for myself. I want to set a good example to my daughter because I can see that she watches me study, sits beside me and says she's learning too. And I want her to know how important studying is so I'm doing it for her too. What else can I say?... Almost 4 years have passed since I started attending the GCE. I'm going to complete the 4th term if IT studies now and I think I have never felt better before. I think I have received willingness to learn from home. My mom has always encouraged both my sister and I to learn, trying to motivate me in every possible way. I am sure I didn't give up thanks to her. I also have to thank my teachers, particularly those I met during the last years.

As for my future plans, I am not sure yet, but I still dream of going to university. I am enthusiastic about it and I hope to be strong enough to accept a new challenge.

Dariusz

In the modern world education of a man has gained very significant meaning for his/her efficient functioning in the society. The level of our education influences our whole future life. And it does not result, however, from what schools we have completed. It results mainly from the skills that we have acquired after having completed a particular school. What is the value of a graduate even from the most exclusive and renowned school who cannot apply his/her knowledge for concrete actions in life or at work? That is why I have decided to put my education in order in the Centre for Continuing Education at Upper Silesian Educational Centre (GCE).

My adventure with education started in the elementary school, then I finished the Vocational School in Gliwice in the line of the assembler of the RTV devices. This line was connected with my contemporary fascination: electronics. Immediately after having finished the vocational school I passed the examination to the three-year technical school with the line: the general electronics. Because I was so-called „able but lazy” pupil my grades oscillated between C and B. I acquired B mainly from technical subjects. Unfortunately in the third class, the secondary school examination one, as the result of some private and health coincidence, I had to break my education because of large arrears.

It was time to take a job. After several failures while working as commercial representatives selling the products nobody needs, I found a job whose characteristic was pretty close to my interests and to the school I had graduated from. I became a serviceman of xerographic equipment. As the Company was active in the whole territory of the country the phase of constant business trips commenced in my life. The characteristic of my work resulted in the fact that I failed to finish the evening technical school twice. All the time, because of the same reasons – it means constant business trips, what was followed by irregular attending the classes and the arrears in learning. After the year 2000 my professional situation improved. I changed my job, working still in the same field, however. At last I could think about making up my lacking in education.



At that time my beloved daughters who were born then posed the obstacle. I ought to postpone my plan of education for later. In the year 2005 I decided, owing to my wife's pressing and strong-minded persuasion, to take advantage of the offer of the private secondary school lasting for twelve months. The classes were conducted in a chaotic manner and the subject was treated very superficially, according to the scheme: pay for a semester, make a xerographic copy of the materials, pay for the examination extension and pass it. Such system of acquiring knowledge did not win my approval, and after two months of attending that pseudo school I decided to wait until the beginning of the next school year and to enroll at the normal school. I felt like taking on my value and proving that I was not in a lost standing, that I was still worth something.

Since November until August time was passing slowly and my enthusiasm for education became much weaker. It was partially due to my laziness and lack of inner mobilization. Fortunately, I have a wife at my side who started again pressing and persuading me and finally she took the set of my documents and enrolled me at school by herself. I feel extremely well at school, the large scope of knowledge that I possess from the previous years helps me a lot. Most of the matters is treated by me as a kind of repetition and refreshing of information, particularly from the exact subjects. My first examination was a great motivation for me and the grade that I won from it. It allowed me to believe in my abilities and motivated me to prepare well for the further examinations. In my opinion, further education shall help me in my everyday life. I find learning English very useful. In my professional work I often use technical documentation that is available only in English. Because I work in a small Company I must constantly extend my knowledge by myself, I must gain experiences independently and be acquainted with all kinds of technical innovations. I can only dream of attending a professional technical training. That is why upgrading my qualifications is so important for me. In my opinion, I cope pretty well with difficulties that I come across.

I must share my time between my work, my family, school and my hobbies. And they are, for some time now, guitars that I have four of them now. Lately I specialize in the sung poetry. I feel sorry that there is no music class in the complementary secondary school. Maybe it is a little too late, but I would like to learn the theory of music and uncover the talents that still dream somewhere in me. I do hope that I will manage to be among this one percent of the happy graduates from the schools for adults. I also think of starting the university studies, the most probably technical ones. Here I see my chance for finding a better, well-paid job, and even for establishing my own business. I hope that my education based on more than ten years of my professional experience will help me to fulfill my plans.

Spain



Encarnita

My name's Encarnita. I was born in a little town in Granada but I live in Alicante. My city is very nice. Alicante is next to the Mediterranean Sea and it has long and beautiful beaches. The sun shines almost every day. I live with my family, I'm married and I have two children who are teenagers now. My daughter is 16 years old and my son is 14 I'm unemployed now, so I'm working at home. When I was younger I was working in a shop, I'm a shop assistant. I belong to the parent's association (AMPA) in the school where my children are studying. This year I cooperate with the parent's association working during two days a week in the photocopy room where I give service to the students in the school. When I have free time I like reading a book, going to the cinema or to the theatre. At the week-end, I like going to the beach with my family and friends. We sometimes go to the country too. I didn't attend the University, I only studied in the primary school until I was 15 years. I studied English there. I like this language so I'm learning it again. I think that English language is important to travel, to meet people and to find a casual job. I need to work, not only for the money but for myself. I attend English classes on Friday evenings, I like it and I'm very happy.

María Isabel

My name is María Isabel. I was born on the 18th January 1940 in a small town in Alicante. I live in 12 Arzobispo Loaces Street, first floor A and my telephone number is 965926382.

I studied at Madrid University and I got a degree in Economy and Politics. Before that I received a certificate and became a teacher for Primary school in Alicante. I was successful in a public competition exam and became a teacher at a secondary school. I have been working in different places. Nowadays I am working in Antonio José Cavanilles School in Alicante. I have studied new matters in different occasions because of personal cultural curiosity. The only problem I have is lack of time. I have always obtained wonderful benefits and I still have interest in the unknown. I love the idea of meeting new people from other countries in the world, new people with the same problems and interests. I also like to know studies for adults in other countries to see the differences and similarities. Referring to the project I think it is absolutely adequate and interesting. It is a challenge for all of us because 'learning' has no end in time. Anybody could keep learning along the years and fulfilling the gaps we all have

Sofía Teruel Martínez

My name is Sofia. I was born in a small town called Almansa, not far from Alicante where I now live. I got a degree in Arts—English—in Madrid. I obtained a grant to cover my fees in London, England. I worked there in a secondary school teaching Spanish as an assistant teacher. I also attended lessons at a night school to improve my English. Next year I gave lessons in a public school for a year. Since then I worked teaching English till my retirement two years ago. While I was working at a secondary school in a nearby town I kept studying English in order to be successful in a public competition. This will provide me a public post, stable and compatible with my family. I also studied new methods for teaching in different courses and travelled to England to practice English and learn more about British life and culture. I took a course at Dublin University during a month. Luckily I travelled round Ireland and it was a wonderful experience. Once I had enough experience in teaching I decided to get a Master's Degree at Alicante University. This so called 'Master' was divided into two courses with exams at the end of every course. I received a Certificate of Translation.

Although many of these activities and efforts never helped me to be promoted in my job, they encouraged me to maintain an open mind and a deep interest in culture, generally speaking.

Nowadays I have started studying the new technologies because they are essential for everyone. It is also important to meet people from different countries and to learn from them.

Adelaida Marín

My name is Adelaida Marín. I have been a history teacher for thirty years but I have always wanted to speak English. I studied French at school and, after the university, I got married. I had children, so I haven't had time to study. Only when my children grew up I started learning English but as it was very difficult I stopped it. And last year, when this project started at my school, I decided to study again and now studying English is very interesting for me because the methods and the teachers are fantastic and I am learning and speaking a lot. That's why I feel more sure when I travel abroad. It is very important to me because when I am retired I hope to travel around the world. In the end I want to thank and congratulate project managers on this program. I hope it will continue next year.



Appendix 1

Ireland: Student Questionnaire Results

In some questions a five-point table has been provided. For these questions the following key should be used:

1	Extremely True	or	Very Important
2	True	or	Important
3	Mostly True	or	Fairly Important
4	Less True	or	Less Important
5	Not True	or	Not Important

General Information					
Centre Name:	St. John's Central College				
Country:	Ireland				
Date Questionnaire Completed:	October 2005				
Student Information					
Age last birthday: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	<25	25 - 50 (20)	50 - 65	>65	
Sex: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	Male (9)			Female (11)	
Age left School:	15 yrs = 1, 16 yrs = 3, 17 yrs = 8, 18yrs = 7, 19 yrs = 1				
Pre Course Motivation					
1) I was very enthusiastic about starting this course and felt that I would learn many new skills	1 (10)	2 (9)	3	4 (1)	5
2) I am doing this course because I am unemployed and wish to find a job	1 (2)	2 (6)	3 (7)	4 (1)	5 (4)
3) I am doing this course so that I can become self employed	1	2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (9)	5 (6)
4) I am employed and am doing this course to update my skills	1 (3)	2 (2)	3 (1)	4 (3)	5 (11)
5) I am doing this course as a hobby	1	2 (1)	3 (3)	4 (2)	5 (14)
6) I have enjoyed my time at school / college on previous occasions	1 (1)	2 (10)	3 (8)	4 (1)	5
7) I expect that doing this module will improve my literacy skills	1 (5)	2 (5)	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 (3)
8) I expect that doing this module will improve my numeric skills	1 (2)	2 (7)	3 (3)	4 (5)	5 (3)
9) I had an interest in the subjects covered before I started this course	1 (5)	2 (9)	3 (4)	4	5 (2)
Pre Existing Competences					
10) I have completed the following previous education: <i>(tick as appropriate)</i>	School up to 12 years of age	20			
	School up to 16 years of age	16			
	School up to 19 years of age	15			
	Apprentice	1			
	Vocational Qualification	3			
	University level Diploma	2			
	University level Degree	3			
	Other (Please Specify)	6 (e.g. ECDL, Fás, A Levels, FETAC Certificate Level 2, Computer Courses)			
11) I have attended short term day courses	1 (6)	2 (4)	3 (1)	4 (1)	5 (8)
12) I have attended night classes	1 (6)	2 (2)	3	4	5 (12)
13) I am aware of and am committed to the concept of lifelong learning	1 (6)	2 (10)	3 (2)	4 (2)	5
14) I have gained much useful experience from my previous employment	1 (5)	2 (6)	3 (5)	4 (3)	5 (1)
15) Competences that I have gained through previous employment can be used towards formal certification	1 (4)	2 (3)	3 (6)	4 (2)	5 (5)
16) Formal Certification of a course is important to me	1 (9)	2 (8)	3 (1)	4 (1)	5 (1)



Module Delivery					
17) I think my level of attendance at classes has been good	1 (13)	2 (5)	3 (2)	4	5
18) How many days do you spend at the training centre / school each week? (Tick as appropriate)	1	2	3	4 (4)	5 (16) 6 7
19) How many hours per week do you spend attending class or practical activity for this course?	<10	10 – 20 (12)	20 – 30 (7)	30 – 40 (1)	>40
20) How many hours do you spend studying for this course outside of formal class time?	<5 (9)	5 – 10 (9)	10 – 20 (2)	20 -30	>30
21) I find it difficult to find enough time to for study	1 (3)	2 (3)	3 (7)	4 (2)	5 (5)
22) I have participated in Groupwork / teamwork as part of this course	1 (3)	2 (9)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (3)
23) I am even more enthusiastic about doing this course now than I was when I started	1 (6)	2 (7)	3 (5)	4 (2)	5
24) The course content is relevant to my needs	1 (9)	2 (5)	3 (5)	4	5 (1)
25) I feel that I have been given enough time to complete the course	1 (8)	2 (11)	3 (1)	4	5
26) I would like to have more time on the course dedicated to practical work	1 (3)	2 (4)	3 (6)	4 (5)	5 (2)
27) I am actively seeking employment	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (5)	4 (3)	5 (9)
28) Self employment is viable option for me	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (5)	4 (4)	5 (9)
29) How would you rate your employment prospects after you complete the Module? (tick as appropriate)	High (8)		Average (11)		Low (1)
30) Have you undertaken work experience as part of your course? (tick as appropriate)	Yes (3)			No (17)	
31) Which of the following have you used to aid your study for this course: (tick as appropriate)	School Library			16	
	Public Library			2	
	Education CD ROM			5	
	Internet			17	
	Education Video or DVD			7	
	Private tuition				
32) Would you like to suggest any changes to the course that would make it better for future students?	No = 17 Comments: To have a 4 day week 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. More Classes Smaller class sizes to allow more time for each student.				

Family Support and Support Services					
33) I have been encouraged by my family to do this course	1 (7)	2 (5)	3 (4)	4 (1)	5 (3)
34) I receive financial support from the following sources while I am doing this course: (Tick as appropriate)	My Family			3	
	My Employer			1	
	The State			17	
	I have a part-time job			3	
	I have a full-time job				
35) I have been given time off work by my employer to do this course	1 (2)	2	3 (1)	4 (1)	5 (16)
36) I found it difficult to access information about courses	1	2 (1)	3 (4)	4 (4)	5 (11)
37) I have had help from an education counsellor	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (1)	4 (1)	5 (15)
38) There is an adult education support service available in our school / college	1 (7)	2 (11)	3	4 (1)	5 (1)
39) A staff member has been assigned to give support to adults doing this course	1 (9)	2 (9)	3 (2)	4	5
40) There is a study support service available at the school / college	1 (13)	2 (7)	3	4	5
41) There is an information resource centre available at our school / college	1 (16)	2 (4)	3	4	5
42) If I am unable to attend a class there is a system in place to help me get the notes / information that I missed	1 (5)	2 (4)	3 (7)	4 (2)	5 (2)
43) I have access to the internet outside of class time	1 (12)	2 (8)	3	4	5
44) I have access to a library outside of class time	1 (13)	2 (7)	3	4	5
45) Teachers and students are partners in the education process	1 (7)	2 (8)	3 (3)	4 (2)	5
46) A career / employment service is available in our school / college	1 (3)	2 (3)	3 (2)	4 (7)	5 (5)

L.I.S.T.E.N.



Information Technology					
47) I have never used a computer before starting this course	1 (3)	2 (1)	3 (1)	4 (1)	5 (14)
48) I have good computer literacy skills	1 (4)	2 (6)	3 (6)	4 (2)	5 (2)
49) I have used the following type of application package: (Tick as appropriate)	Wordprocessor				16
	Database				13
	Spreadsheet				13
	Internet				20
	Education CD ROM				11
	Graphics or photograph editing				8
50) I have used the following hardware devices: (Tick as appropriate)	Other (Please Specify)				
	Printer				18
	Scanner				12
	Digital Camera				15
	Memory stick / key				4
51) I have a computer in my home	Other (Please Specify)				
	1 (9)	2 (5)	3	4 (1)	5 (5)
52) I have internet access from my home computer	1 (7)	2 (2)	3	4 (1)	5 (10)
53) I have participated on a computer course in the past	1 (10)	2 (2)	3 (1)	4	5 (7)
54) Computer skills are essential to my future employment prospects	1 (9)	2 (9)	3	4 (1)	5 (1)
55) I would like to improve my computer skills	1 (13)	2 (5)	3 (1)	4 (1)	5
56) Computer classes are an integral part of my current course	1 (13)	2 (4)	3 (1)	4 (2)	5
57) I would welcome additional computer classes as part of my course	1 (12)	2 (5)	3 (1)	4 (1)	5 (1)

Spain: Student Questionnaire Results

In some questions a five-point table has been provided. For these questions the following key should be used:

1	Extremely True	or	Very Important
2	True	or	Important
3	Mostly True	or	Fairly Important
4	Less True	or	Less Important
5	Not True	or	Not Important



General Information	
Centre Name:	C.E.P.A. Babel
Country:	Spain
Date Questionnaire Completed:	October 14th, 2005

Student Information			
Age last birthday: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	<25 5	25 - 50 12	50 - 65 1 >65
Sex: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	Male 9		Female 11
Age left School:	14: 8 / 15: 2 / 16: 4 / 17: 3 / 18: 1 / 19: 2		

Pre Course Motivation					
1) I was very enthusiastic about starting this course and felt that I would learn many new skills	1 10	2 4	3 2	4 2	5 2
2) I am doing this course because I am unemployed and wish to find a job	1 2	2 2	3 2	4 3	5 12
3) I am doing this course so that I can become self employed	1 3	2 2	3 2	4 3	5 10
4) I am employed and am doing this course to update my skills	1 3	2 5	3 4	4 3	5 5
5) I am doing this course as a hobby	1 3	2 1	3 1	4 4	5 11
6) I have enjoyed my time at school / college on previous occasions	1 3	2 3	3 7	4 2	5 5
7) I expect that doing this module will improve my literacy skills	1 9	2 1	3 8	4 1	5 1
8) I expect that doing this module will improve my numeric skills	1 6	2 2	3 5	4 2	5 5
9) I had an interest in the subjects covered before I started this course	1 3	2 8	3 5	4 2	5 2

Pre Existing Competences					
10) I have completed the following previous education: <i>(tick as appropriate)</i>	School up to 12 years of age	17			
	School up to 16 years of age	11			
	School up to 19 years of age	2			
	Apprentice				
	Vocational Qualification	3			
	University level Diploma				
	University level Degree				
Other (Please Specify)					
11) I have attended short term day courses	1 5	2 1	3 3	4 2	5 9
12) I have attended night classes	1 9	2 2	3 3	4 2	5 7
13) I am aware of and am committed to the concept of lifelong learning	1 9	2 2	3 7	4 1	5 1
14) I have gained much useful experience from my previous employment	1 5	2 4	3 4	4 3	5 4
15) Competences that I have gained through previous employment can be used towards formal certification	1 4	2 1	3 3	4 3	5 9
16) Formal Certification of a course is important to me	1 11	2 2	3 3	4 2	5 2

L.I.S.T.E.N.



Module Delivery										
17) I think my level of attendance at classes has been good	1	8	2	5	3	5	4	1	5	1
18) How many days do you spend at the training centre / school each week? (Tick as appropriate)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
19) How many hours per week do you spend attending class or practical activity for this course?	<10	10-20	20-30	30-40	>40					
20) How many hours do you spend studying for this course outside of formal class time?	<5	5-10	10-20	20-30	>30					
21) I find it difficult to find enough time to for study	1	12	2	2	3	2	4	2	5	2
22) I have participated in Groupwork / teamwork as part of this course	1	2	3	4	5					
23) I am even more enthusiastic about doing this course now than I was when I started	1	2	3	4	5					
24) The course content is relevant to my needs	1	7	2	4	3	8	4		5	1
25) I feel that I have been given enough time to complete the course	1	2	3	4	5					
26) I would like to have more time on the course dedicated to practical work	1	2	3	4	5					
27) I am actively seeking employment	1	4	2	2	3	1	4	1	5	12
28) Self employment is viable option for me	1	2	2	3	3		4	5	5	10
29) How would you rate your employment prospects after you complete the Module? (tick as appropriate)	High		Average			Low				
30) Have you undertaken work experience as part of your course? (tick as appropriate)	Yes			No						
31) Which of the following have you used to aid your study for this course: (tick as appropriate)	School Library			Public Library			Education CD ROM			
	Internet			Education Video or DVD			Private tuition			
	Other (Please specify)			Books: 5			Notes: 1			
				Friends: 1						
32) Would you like to suggest any changes to the course that would make it better for future students?										

Family Support and Support Services										
33) I have been encouraged by my family to do this course	1	2	3	4	5					
34) I receive financial support from the following sources while I am doing this course: (Tick as appropriate)	My Family			My Employer			The State			
	I have a part-time job			I have a full-time job			Other (Please Specify)			
35) I have been given time off work by my employer to do this course	1	2	3	4	5					
36) I found it difficult to access information about courses	1	3	2	2	3	6	4	2	5	7
37) I have had help from an education counsellor	1	4	2	2	3	4	4	2	5	8
38) There is an adult education support service available in our school / college	1	2	3	4	5					
39) A staff member has been assigned to give support to adults doing this course	1	2	3	4	5					
40) There is a study support service available at the school / college	1	2	3	4	5					
41) There is an information resource centre available at our school / college	1	2	3	4	5					
42) If I am unable to attend a class there is a system in place to help me get the notes / information that I missed	1	2	3	4	5					
43) I have access to the internet outside of class time	1	7	2	3	3	5	4	1	5	4
44) I have access to a library outside of class time	1	8	2	3	3	4	4	2	5	3
45) Teachers and students are partners in the education process	1	2	3	4	5					
46) A career / employment service is available in our school / college	1	2	3	4	5					

L.I.S.T.E.N.



Information Technology					
47) I have never used a computer before starting this course	1 2	2 2	3 2	4 1	5 13
48) I have good computer literacy skills	1 5	2 3	3 7	4 3	5 2
49) I have used the following type of application package: (Tick as appropriate)	Wordprocessor				14
	Database				8
	Spreadsheet				10
	Internet				15
	Education CD ROM				9
	Graphics or photograph editing				8
50) I have used the following hardware devices: (Tick as appropriate)	Printer				15
	Scanner				12
	Digital Camera				13
	Memory stick / key				8
	Other (Please Specify)				
51) I have a computer in my home	1 13	2 1	3 1	4 4	5 5
52) I have internet access from my home computer	1 11	2	3	4 4	5 4
53) I have participated on a computer course in the past	1 9	2 1	3 3	4 1	5 6
54) Computer skills are essential to my future employment prospects	1 7	2 3	3 4	4 1	5 5
55) I would like to improve my computer skills	1 12	2 2	3 2	4 1	5 3
56) Computer classes are an integral part of my current course	1 6	2 1	3 3	4 1	5 9
57) I would welcome additional computer classes as part of my course	1 6	2 3	3 4	4 4	5 7



Italy (Elsa Morante): Student Questionnaire Results

In some questions a five-point table has been provided. For these questions the following key should be used:

1	Extremely True	or	Very Important
2	True	or	Important
3	Mostly True	or	Fairly Important
4	Less True	or	Less Important
5	Not True	or	Not Important

General Information	
Centre Name:	Elsa Morante - Sassuolo
Country:	Italy
Date Questionnaire Completed:	

Student Information			
Age last birthday: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	<25 10%	25-50 80%	50- 65 10% >65
Sex: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	Male 30%	Female 70%	
Age left School:	14(15%)- 15(15%)- 16(15%)- 17(25%)- 18(15%)- 19(5%)- 21(5%)- 27(5%)		

Pre Course Motivation					
1) I was very enthusiastic about starting this course and felt that I would learn many new skills	1 30%	2 45%	3 20%	4 5%	5 0
2) I am doing this course because I am unemployed and wish to find a job	1 0	2 5%	3 0	4 10%	5 75%
3) I am doing this course so that I can become self employed	1 10%	2 15%	3 5%	4 20%	5 50%
4) I am employed and am doing this course to update my skills	1 40%	2 35%	3 0%	4 0	5 15%
5) I am doing this course as a hobby	1 0	2 0	3 15%	4 5%	5 80%
6) I have enjoyed my time at school / college on previous occasions	1 20%	2 5%	3 25%	4 25%	5 20%
7) I expect that doing this module will improve my literacy skills	1 60%	2 35%	3 5%	4 0	5 0
8) I expect that doing this module will improve my numeric skills	1 35%	2 35%	3 15%	4 10%	5 5%
9) I had an interest in the subjects covered before I started this course	1 25%	2 35%	3 20%	4 10%	5 10%

Pre Existing Competences					
10) I have completed the following previous education: <i>(tick as appropriate)</i>	School up to 12 years of age			Medie 60%	
	School up to 16 years of age				
	School up to 19 years of age			10%	
	Apprentice			20%	
	Vocational Qualification				
	University level Diploma				
	University level Degree			5%	
11) I have attended short term day courses	Other (Please Specify)			5%	
	1 20%	2 15%	3 0	4 5%	5 60%
	1 25%	2 35%	3 0	4 0	5 40%
	1 55%	2 25%	3 10%	4 5%	5 5%
	1 30%	2 30%	3 10%	4 5%	5 25%
15) Competences that I have gained through previous employment can be used towards formal certification	1 5%	2 20%	3 40%	4 5%	5 30%
16) Formal Certification of a course is important to me	1 40%	2 30%	3 25%	4 5%	5 0



Module Delivery						
17) I think my level of attendance at classes has been good	1 60%	2 35%	3 5%	4 0	5 0	
18) How many days do you spend at the training centre / school each week? (Tick as appropriate)	1 5%	2 5%	3 5%	4 0	5 85%	6 0
19) How many hours per week do you spend attending class or practical activity for this course?	<10 10%	10 – 20 10%	20 – 30 80%	30 – 40 0	>40 0	
20) How many hours do you spend studying for this course outside of formal class time?	<5 35%	5 – 10 55%	10 – 20 5%	20 – 30 5%	>30 0	
21) I find it difficult to find enough time to for study	1 15%	2 30%	3 50%	4 0	5 5%	
22) I have participated in Groupwork / teamwork as part of this course	1 5%	2 25%	3 30%	4 15%	5 25%	
23) I am even more enthusiastic about doing this course now than I was when I started	1 20%	2 30%	3 40%	4 10%	5 0	
24) The course content is relevant to my needs	1 10%	2 40%	3 40%	4 5%	5 5%	
25) I feel that I have been given enough time to complete the course	1 20%	2 35%	3 25%	4 15%	5 5%	
26) I would like to have more time on the course dedicated to practical work	1 10%	2 25%	3 40%	4 20%	5 5%	
27) I am actively seeking employment	1 10%	2 10%	3 20%	4 10%	5 50%	
28) Self employment is viable option for me	1 15%	2 20%	3 25%	4 20%	5 20%	
29) How would you rate your employment prospects after you complete the Module? (tick as appropriate)	High 10%		Average 80%		Low 10%	
30) Have you undertaken work experience as part of your course? (tick as appropriate)	Yes 20%			No 80%		
31) Which of the following have you used to aid your study for this course: (tick as appropriate)	School Library					
	Public Library			50%		
	Education CD ROM			55%		
	Internet			75%		
	Education Video or DVD			25%		
	Private tuition			20%		
	Signed statement of competency by the tutor			5%		
32) Would you like to suggest any changes to the course that would make it better for future students?	Other (Please specify)			Work travelling 5% Travelling 5% Family support 10% Books 5% PC 5%		
	Economics in the first hours 10% No suggestion 50% Teachers training 5% More IT and foreign languages 5% Daytime extra classes 25% Open classes and modules 20% Compulsory attendance 5% Students' suggestion on school schedule 10% Supporting member of staff 5%					



Family Support and Support Services					
33) I have been encouraged by my family to do this course	1 30%	2 15%	3 10%	4 5%	5 40%
34) I receive financial support from the following sources while I am doing this course: (Tick as appropriate)	My Family			25%	
	My Employer			0	
	The State			10%	
	I have a part-time job			20%	
	I have a full-time job			55%	
Other (Please Specify)			0		
35) I have been given time off work by my employer to do this course	1 10%	2 10%	3 0	4 15%	5 65%
36) I found it difficult to access information about courses	1 15%	2 5%	3 10%	4 10%	5 60%
37) I have had help from an education counsellor	1 0	2 15%	3 10%	4 5%	5 75%
38) There is an adult education support service available in our school / college	1 0	2 10%	3 30%	4 30%	5 30%
39) A staff member has been assigned to give support to adults doing this course	1 10%	2 25%	3 30%	4 15%	5 20%
40) There is a study support service available at the school / college	1 0	2 15%	3 0	4 25%	5 60%
41) There is an information resource centre available at our school / college	1 5%	2 15%	3 10%	4 45%	5 25%
42) If I am unable to attend a class there is a system in place to help me get the notes / information that I missed	1 10%	2 20%	3 50%	4 5%	5 15%
43) I have access to the internet outside of class time	1 5%	2 35%	3 10%	4 15%	5 35%
44) I have access to a library outside of class time	1 5%	2 0	3 15%	4 10%	5 70%
45) Teachers and students are partners in the education process	1 20%	2 25%	3 40%	4 10%	5 5%
46) A career / employment service is available in our school / college	1 0	2 10%	3 0	4 20%	5 70%

Information Technology					
47) I have never used a computer before starting this course	1 20%	2 20%	3 5%	4 0	5 55%
48) I have good computer literacy skills	1 10%	2 10%	3 45%	4 25%	5 10%
49) I have used the following type of application package: (Tick as appropriate)	Wordprocessor			95%	
	Database			10%	
	Spreadsheet			40%	
	Internet			90%	
	Education CD ROM			45%	
	Graphics or photograph editing			45%	
	Other (Please Specify)			Intranet 5%	
50) I have used the following hardware devices: (Tick as appropriate)	Printer			90%	
	Scanner			35%	
	Digital Camera			50%	
	Memory stick / key			30%	
	Other (Please Specify)			0	
51) I have a computer in my home	1 55%	2 25%	3 0	4 5%	5 15%
52) I have internet access from my home computer	1 45%	2 15%	3 0	4 5%	5 35%
53) I have participated on a computer course in the past	1 10%	2 10%	3 15%	4 0	5 65%
54) Computer skills are essential to my future employment prospects	1 50%	2 25%	3 10%	4 10%	5 5%
55) I would like to improve my computer skills	1 50%	2 35%	3 10%	4 0	5 5%
56) Computer classes are an integral part of my current course	1 15%	2 50%	3 15%	4 15%	5 10%
57) I would welcome additional computer classes as part of my course	1 30%	2 10%	3 35%	4 15%	5 10%



Italy (Don Z. Iodi): Student Questionnaire Results

In some questions a five-point table has been provided. For these questions the following key should be used:

1	Extremely True	or	Very Important
2	True	or	Important
3	Mostly True	or	Fairly Important
4	Less True	or	Less Important
5	Not True	or	Not Important

General Information	
Centre Name:	DON Z. IODI
Country:	ITALY
Date Questionnaire Completed:	

Student Information				
Age last birthday: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	<25 7	25 - 50 12	50 - 65	>65
Sex: <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	Male 7		Female 12	
Age left School:				

Pre Course Motivation					
1) I was very enthusiastic about starting this course and felt that I would learn many new skills	1 8	2 5	3 5	4	5 1
2) I am doing this course because I am unemployed and wish to find a job	1	2	3 2	4 3	5 14
3) I am doing this course so that I can become self employed	1	2	3 2	4 7	5 10
4) I am employed and am doing this course to update my skills	1 8	2 1	3 3	4 3	5 4
5) I am doing this course as a hobby	1	2	3	4 4	5 15
6) I have enjoyed my time at school / college on previous occasions	1 3	2 1	3 7	4 6	5 2
7) I expect that doing this module will improve my literacy skills	1 6	2 7	3 2	4	5 4
8) I expect that doing this module will improve my numeric skills	1 3	2 5	3 4	4 4	5 3
9) I had an interest in the subjects covered before I started this course	1 9	2 1	3 4	4 4	5

Pre Existing Competences					
10) I have completed the following previous education: <i>(tick as appropriate)</i>	School up to 12 years of age				
	School up to 16 years of age				
	School up to 19 years of age	19			
	Apprentice				
	Vocational Qualification				
	University level Diploma				
	University level Degree				
Other (Please Specify)					
11) I have attended short term day courses	1	2 1	3 2	4 1	5 7
12) I have attended night classes	1 5	2 5	3	4 1	5 7
13) I am aware of and am committed to the concept of lifelong learning	1 9	2 7	3 2	4	5
14) I have gained much useful experience from my previous employment	1 11	2 5	3 1	4	5 1
15) Competences that I have gained through previous employment can be used towards formal certification	1 6	2 7	3 3	4 2	5
16) Formal Certification of a course is important to me	1 12	2 2	3 2	4 2	5 1



Module Delivery						
17) I think my level of attendance at classes has been good	1 7	2 4	3 8	4	5	
18) How many days do you spend at the training centre / school each week? (Tick as appropriate)	1 1	2	3 1	4 3	5 13	6 7
19) How many hours per week do you spend attending class or practical activity for this course?	<10	10 – 20 1	20 – 30 8	30 – 40 10	>40	
20) How many hours do you spend studying for this course outside of formal class time?	<5 7	5 – 10 9	10 – 20 3	20 -30	>30	
21) I find it difficult to find enough time to for study	1 7	2 3	3 4	4 3	5 1	
22) I have participated in Groupwork / teamwork as part of this course	1 4	2 4	3 1	4 3	5 4	
23) I am even more enthusiastic about doing this course now than I was when I started	1 4	2 3	3 8	4 1	5 1	
24) The course content is relevant to my needs	1 1	2 3	3 2	4 2	5 9	
25) I feel that I have been given enough time to complete the course	1 2	2 4	3 2	4 6	5 3	
26) I would like to have more time on the course dedicated to practical work	1 3	2 3	3 3	4 6	5 2	
27) I am actively seeking employment	1 1	2	3	4	5 18	
28) Self employment is viable option for me	1 5	2 1	3 5	4 1	5 5	
29) How would you rate your employment prospects after you complete the Module? (tick as appropriate)	High 2	Average 13		Low 2		
30) Have you undertaken work experience as part of your course? (tick as appropriate)	Yes 8			No 11		
31) Which of the following have you used to aid your study for this course: (tick as appropriate)	School Library					
	Public Library			14		
	Education CD ROM					
	Internet			15		
	Education Video or DVD					
	Private tuition					
	Signed statement of competency by the tutor					
32) Would you like to suggest any changes to the course that would make it better for future students?	Other (Please specify)					

Family Support and Support Services						
33) I have been encouraged by my family to do this course	1 4	2	3 1	4	5 13	
34) I receive financial support from the following sources while I am doing this course: (Tick as appropriate)	My Family			1		
	My Employer					
	The State			1		
	I have a part-time job			9		
	I have a full-time job			2		
	Other (Please Specify)					
35) I have been given time off work by my employer to do this course	1 1	2 1	3 1	4 1	5 14	
36) I found it difficult to access information about courses	1 1	2 3	3 1	4 1	5 9	
37) I have had help from an education counsellor	1 1	2 3	3 2	4 1	5 10	
38) There is an adult education support service available in our school / college	1 1	2 1	3 1	4 3	5 6	
39) A staff member has been assigned to give support to adults doing this course	1 1	2 2	3	4 3	5 6	
40) There is a study support service available at the school / college	1 1	2 3	3 1	4 3	5 4	
41) There is an information resource centre available at our school / college	1 1	2 5	3 1	4 5	5 3	
42) If I am unable to attend a class there is a system in place to help me get the notes / information that I missed	1 2	2 6	3 5	4	5 4	
43) I have access to the internet outside of class time	1 1	2 4	3	4 5	5 9	
44) I have access to a library outside of class time	1 2	2 5	3 4	4	5 5	
45) Teachers and students are partners in the education process	1 5	2 4	3 2	4 2	5 2	
46) A career / employment service is available in our school / college	1	2	3	4 5	5 9	



Information Technology					
47) I have never used a computer before starting this course	1 3	2	3 2	4	5 12
48) I have good computer literacy skills	1 6	2	3 6	4 1	5 4
49) I have used the following type of application package: (Tick as appropriate)	Wordprocessor		19		
	Database				
	Spreadsheet				
	Internet		19		
	Education CD ROM				
	Graphics or photograph editing				
50) I have used the following hardware devices: (Tick as appropriate)	Other (Please Specify)				
	Printer		19		
	Scanner		19		
	Digital Camera		19		
	Memory stick / key				
51) I have a computer in my home	Other (Please Specify)				
	1 10	2 3	3	4	5 4
52) I have internet access from my home computer	1 6	2 1	3	4	5 10
53) I have participated on a computer course in the past	1 6	2 2	3 1	4 3	5 5
54) Computer skills are essential to my future employment prospects	1 7	2 2	3 3	4 4	5 1
55) I would like to improve my computer skills	1 10	2 2	3 2	4 2	5 1
56) Computer classes are an integral part of my current course	1 2	2 4	3 2	4 2	5 8
57) I would welcome additional computer classes as part of my course	1 8	2 1	3 2	4 5	5 1

Poland: Student Questionnaire Results

In some questions a five-point table has been provided. For these questions the following key should be used:

1	Extremely True	or	Very Important
2	True	or	Important
3	Mostly True	or	Fairly Important
4	Less True	or	Less Important
5	Not True	or	Not Important



General Information	
Centre Name:	GCE – Upper Silesian Educational Centre
Country:	Poland
Date Questionnaire Completed:	08 to 11 October 2005
Survey party (<i>the number of persons</i>)	20

Student Information							
Age last birthday: (<i>the number of persons</i>)	<25 7	25 - 50 10	50 – 65 1	>65 0			
Sex:	Male 7		Female 13				
Age left School: (<i>the number of persons</i>)	17 2	18 8	19 3	20 2	21 2	22 2	25 1

Pre Course Motivation					
	Extremely True	True	Mostly True	Less True	Not True
1) I was very enthusiastic about starting this course and felt that I would learn many new skills	1 2	2 7	3 2	4 3	5 6
2) I am doing this course because I am unemployed and wish to find a job	1 2	2 3	3 1	4 0	5 14
3) I am doing this course so that I can become self employed	1 0	2 0	3 1	4 6	5 13
4) I am employed and am doing this course to update my skills	1 4	2 8	3 1	4 2	5 5
5) I am doing this course as a hobby	1 1	2 5	3 1	4 4	5 9
6) I have enjoyed my time at school / college on previous occasions	1 0	2 5	3 3	4 8	5 4
7) I expect that doing this module will improve my literacy skills	1 2	2 2	3 1	4 5	5 10
8) I expect that doing this module will improve my numeric skills	1 2	2 2	3 3	4 6	5 7
9) I had an interest in the subjects covered before I started this course	1 2	2 2	3 4	4 5	5 7



Pre Existing Competences		number of persons				
10) I have completed the following previous education: <i>(tick as appropriate)</i>	School up to 12 years of age	-				
	School up to 16 years of age	7				
	School up to 19 years of age	6				
	Apprentice	-				
	Vocational Qualification	6				
	University level Diploma	-				
	University level Degree	-				
	Other (Please Specify)	1 (not completed university) non-finished studies				
11) I have attended short term day courses	1 4	2 5	3 1	4 2	5 8	
12) I have attended night classes	1 1	2 4	3 0	4 1	5 14	
13) I am aware of and am committed to the concept of lifelong learning	1 8	2 11	3 0	4 1	5 0	
14) I have gained much useful experience from my previous employment	1 3	2 7	3 5	4 1	5 4	
15) Competences that I have gained through previous employment can be used towards formal certification	There is no legal possibility for identification, validation and accreditation of knowledge and qualification acquired as a result of non-formal and informal learning and use it towards formal certification in Poland.					
16) Formal Certification of a course is important to me	Very Important 11	Important 8	Fairly Important 1	Less Important 0	Not Important 0	



Module Delivery					
17) I think my level of attendance at classes has been good	1 8	2 11	3 1	4 0	5 0
18) How many days do you spend at the training centre / school each week?	1	2	3	4	5 6 7
	In the Centre for Continuing Education for adults classes take place three days a week (18-19 hours altogether)				
19) How many hours per week do you spend attending class or practical activity for this course?	<10	10 - 20	20 - 30	30 - 40	>40
20) How many hours do you spend studying for this course outside of formal class time?	<5 14	5 - 10 4	10 - 20 1	20 -30 0	>30 1
21) I find it difficult to find enough time to for study	1 3	2 9	3 3	4 3	5 2
22) I have participated in Groupwork / teamwork as part of this course	1 0	2 7	3 3	4 6	5 4
23) I am even more enthusiastic about doing this course now than I was when I started	1 2	2 11	3 1	4 3	5 3
24) The course content is relevant to my needs	1 1	2 8	3 5	4 5	5 1
25) I feel that I have been given enough time to complete the course	1 2	2 10	3 6	4 1	5 1
26) I would like to have more time on the course dedicated to practical work	1 3	2 9	3 4	4 2	5 2
27) I am actively seeking employment	1 0	2 3	3 2	4 2	5 13
28) Self employment is viable option for me	1 0	2 1	3 2	4 2	5 15
29) How would you rate your employment prospects after you complete the Module?	High 8		Average 10		Low 2
30) Have you undertaken work experience as part of your course?	Yes 8			No 12	
	School Library			15	
	Public Library			13	
	Education CD ROM			9	
	Internet			16	
	Education Video or DVD			4	
	Private tuition			0	
	Signed statement of competency by the tutor			-	
Other (Please specify the friendly help			1		
32) Would you like to suggest any changes to the course that would make it better for future students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ less theory more practice ▪ more computer classes ▪ to concentrate the attention on subjects and activities useful in the future work ▪ more the teamwork 				



Family Support and Support Services					
33) I have been encouraged by my family to do this course	1 4	2 9	3 0	4 3	5 4
34) I receive financial support from the following sources while I am doing this course: (Tick as appropriate)	My Family			7	
	My Employer			3	
	The State			2	
	I have a part-time job			1	
	I have a full-time job			10	
Other (Please Specify)			0		
35) I have been given time off work by my employer to do this course	1 1	2 3	3 1	4 1	5 14
36) I found it difficult to access information about courses	1 1	2 3	3 4	4 3	5 9
37) I have had help from an education counsellor	1 0	2 0	3 1	4 1	5 18
38) There is an adult education support service available in our school / college	1 4	2 11	3 2	4 1	5 2
39) A staff member has been assigned to give support to adults doing this course	1 1	2 5	3 4	4 2	5 8
40) There is a study support service available at the school / college	1 5	2 10	3 3	4 1	5 1
41) There is an information resource centre available at our school / college	1 there is not resource centre available at our school				
42) If I am unable to attend a class there is a system in place to help me get the notes / information that I missed	1 0	2 7	3 4	4 2	5 7
43) I have access to the internet outside of class time	1 1	2 4	3 4	4 2	5 9
44) I have access to a library outside of class time	1 8	2 11	3 1	4 0	5 0
45) Teachers and students are partners in the education process	1 3	2 5	3 7	4 2	5 3
46) A career / employment service is available in our school / college	1 1	2 4	3 3	4 0	5 12

Information Technology					
47) I have never used a computer before starting this course	1 2	2 2	3 2	4 3	5 11
48) I have good computer literacy skills	1 3	2 3	3 3	4 8	5 3
49) I have used the following type of application package: (Tick as appropriate)	Wordprocessor			18	
	Database			11	
	Spreadsheet			12	
	Internet			14	
	Education CD ROM			12	
	Graphics or photograph editing			10	
50) I have used the following hardware devices: (Tick as appropriate)	Other (Please Specify)			1(PowerPoint)	
	Printer			16	
	Scanner			14	
	Digital Camera			10	
	Memory stick / key			4	
51) I have a computer in my home	Other (Please Specify)			1	
	1 4	2 7	3 0	4 0	5 9
52) I have internet access from my home computer	1 4	2 5	3 0	4 0	5 11
53) I have participated on a computer course in the past	1 4	2 5	3 1	4 0	5 10
54) Computer skills are essential to my future employment prospects	1 5	2 14	3 1	4 0	5 0
55) I would like to improve my computer skills	1 8	2 12	3 0	4 0	5 0
56) Computer classes are an integral part of my current course	1 11	2 9	3 0	4 0	5 0
57) I would welcome additional computer classes as part of my course	1 9	2 8	3 2	4 0	5 1

L.I.S.T.E.N.