
MONITORING REPORT 2

Period August 2018 – February 2019

What? The aim of the monitoring reports is to gather information on the project implementation and process throughout the project.

How? Through questionnaire to be filled in by the VALUE partners – content:

(1) Overall quality of the project implementation (e.g., questions on coordination, quality of activities, timely achievement of project objectives, etc). The aim is to collect feedback from all partners of the VALUE consortium on the quality of the project implementation and the collaboration within the project.

(2) Activities carried out and results accomplished. The aim is to collect information on the progress of project implementation.

(3) Looking back/forward. The aim is to collect feedback from the VALUE partners on achievements and problems encountered and what possible challenges they foresee for the next 6 months.

1. Overall quality of the project implementation

Level of coordination among the partners

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- The start as always requires some time for partners to adjust and understand each other context and how to build something stronger together. However, the VALUE leading partner is managing it quiet smoothly. At the national level (PT) the coordination among AKF and ESESantarém is working quiet well.
- The coordination between partners is sufficient.
- TOR in Ghent and the follow up in Copenhagen were/are helpful to set common goals and prevent communication gaps.



Quality of activities performed

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- Regarding the overall WP we believe in the quality of delivery. In the national pilot we highlight the cooperation among partners on the design and implementation of CPD path in two very diverse contexts.
- The overall activities are high in quality. The phasing of the project is good. The start with the analyse of literature, building fundamentals for the project vision, the cooperation of the TOT made it possible to have a valuable start of the project.
- The quality of some activities needs some improvement. From the perspective of the pilots the online questionnaire was perceived as hard and time consuming. This can undermine the quality of the received data. Also some non-response is possible, especially for the 'invisible' practitioners. .
- Satisfied with progress, objectives are made.

Timely achievement of project objectives

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- The national pilot activities are being executed according to the timeline. Regarding the desk research also. A slower rhythm might be report on feedback from partners in what regards to website development.
- We highlight the need for some discussions and possible changes on the post-test questionnaire application.
- Deadlines are met.
- Building trust and setting common ground with the team of Maria Boodschap (BE) is time and energy consuming but necessary in this phase.



Communication with other partners

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- In this phase of the project there is not so much communication between us and the other partners. We believe that the meeting in March, when we present the intermediate results, will facilitate the communication.
- Regarding communication with other partners: We did have the most communication with the Danish partner when preparing the translation of the questionnaires. They were responsive, however, sometimes there were small misunderstandings due to language issues.
- Satisfied with communication via email and the transnational meetings in Ghent and Copenhagen. Partners and project leader are easy accessible and well informed.

Communication with VBJK as the lead partner

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- Because we are a Belgian partner the communication with VBJK is easy and easy available.
- Satisfied with communication via email and the transnational meetings in Ghent and Copenhagen. Partners and project leader are easy accessible and well informed.

Decision-making processes

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- Is not an easy task and we believe that we should have a conference call each trimester to better manage decision-making grounded in more discussion about each WP content.
- When relevant we are consulted in the decision-making processes.
- The process of taking decisions is democratic and transparent. All partners are involved and consulted.

Risk assessment and management

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- In the design of the pilot we actively anticipated some of the risks namely the number of participants in the two contexts, the time for CPD activities (on the job or after labour) and also the communication between sessions (using moodle platform and whatsapp).
- Administration was difficult for us as first-time participants. A little more support was desirable.
- Our funding organisation presents us with a lot of paperwork. VBJK offers clear overview and guidance.

Follow-up adjustments

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- We trust that the TM in Copenhagen can enable better conditions for this.

Efficiency in using resources and spending

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- The next semester will imply more spending regarding the nature of activities.
- In overall, ERI Slovenia did a good job in using VALUE resources and spending in first 15 months of project (47 % of project duration). The overall grant spending rate was 42 %. In case of staff costs, the spending rate was almost 49%. So far there was no spending in two direct costs categories: subcontracting and other costs, but these costs were already initially planned to be occur towards the end of the project.
- Overall budget for international travel and cooperation is tight e.g. we could only sent one researcher to Copenhagen in very modest accommodations.

Involvement of stakeholders in own country

How would you evaluate the following issues, on a scale from 1 (to be improved) to 5 (very good job)?

Average score: 4

Comments:

- There is a strong involvement of the stakeholders of the own country. Through the installation of an advice commission important partners on different levels are involved. The installation of pilots made it possible to collaborate directly with stakeholders.
- SI: Individual stakeholders were informed about the project work, the group as such did not meet yet (scheduled for 11th march).
- The involvement of the team of Maria Boodschap (BE) is high. The team is proactive and willing to implement aspects of educare. In the following months we should take action to inform the city of Antwerp (Onderwijsnetwerk) and CKSA on a frequent informal level.

Looking back ...

Most positive achievements of the activities carried out

- The development of the TOT and implementation of the first Learning Laboratories in the pilot schools are very promising - and the TOT in DK as exchanging experiences between Central LL and local LL's are promising as well.
- The evaluation survey is also promising and a combination with local case studies on processes.



- During the past months of the project, the partners have been able to establish a positive and constructive working relationship. The multidisciplinary team succeeded in enriching ideas, vision and practice of the different (educational) programs.
The team of the pilot really opened up to the coaches and dove enthusiastically into the project.
- Strong interest, motivation, engagement of both pilots sites (SI), strong engagement of administration in Grosuplje (they have the role of consultants for leaders of PLCs), strong engagement of vice principal in Vavta vas.
- (Almost) All activities are implemented according the projects time frame.
- Our activities resulted, in a short period of time, in a positive change in the perception of the teaching staff towards educare and towards the responsibilities parent-volunteers encounter at Maria Booschap elementary School (BE).

Challenges or problems encountered in the last six months and solutions applied

- We have overcome challenges – however challenges was connected to meet the deadline of the evaluation quantitative part – the survey - we solved them by continued contact with all partners and by involving a new student who has a great expertise of conducting the evaluation.
- BE: The efficacy rate of the invisible practitioners, did not always enable them, to speak their mind during coaching sessions. A separate session gave them the opportunity to take a more active and dominant role in the discussion. Afterwards the new laid foundation paid off.
- SI: In principle, school director in Vavta vas is supporting the team, however she is very rarely present at their meetings or at planning of the activities. The developmental team is willing to host her at meetings of professional learning community, since they are very confident in their work and would like her to see how all ECEC staff is motivated for work and prepared for changes. School director is always invited to the meetings of the whole ECEC staff and meetings with us, and sometimes she responds to invitations, but rarely stays till the very end.
- SI: Individual stakeholders were informed about the project work, the group as such did not meet. The meeting is planned for the March 11. There is an interest of national policy makers, since they have confirmed their participation among the first ones, and also director of The Education Development Office wrote an email to us (which is very rare, that anyone from the Ministry responds) that they have



forwarded our invitation to other staff in the Human Resources Development Sector at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

- Building a common ground and setting up a professional network with an entire team is energy and time consuming. We climbed this mountain step by step and focused on effective communication and inspiring hands-on activities in co-creation with the core group. The feedback we received was positive and kept us going.

Looking forward ...

Challenges in achieving the project objectives

- To build an enlarged consensus regarding the M&E process.
- I would like to include the policy level – but this can be a challenge to get the contact. In Denmark all municipalities are engaged in a new legislation and stakeholders and the policy level are very concerned of this new demands.
- We are looking forward to evaluate the progression by quantitative data and a combination with case studies based on country reports and compare the different cultures in the light of VALUE.
- BE: Due to the division in departments Welfare and Education, policy makers might not succeed in implementing real and durable change or improvement in practice.
- It will take more time (june 2019) to fulfill the ambition to implement and lock in the educare mantra at Maria Boodschap (BE).

Main future steps to be taken in the next months

- Continuing the Learning Laboratories in the DK contexts – comparing the VALUE TOT's in the partner countries.
- Evaluation of how the VALUE meet the overall goals both in quantitative and qualitative perspectives.
- Development of Framework for process-evaluation that can be used across the partner countries.
- Involving policy – in national but also in an International context, (EU commission).
- International meeting in Copenhagen with all the partners involved to exchange experiences and to determine further steps. Closing of the coaching trajectory and creation of sustainable change and dynamics.



- Continuing working with the pilots, more intensive work with stakeholders, promoting the project on Centre's web page, promoting the project on international conference.
- Teachers (in pilot school BE) will be observing individually at a high quality childcare centre neighbouring the school. They will be using a tailor made observing scheme that matches their individual educare needs. There are 2 more learning labs planned.

