



February 2018

## Welcome to the second newsletter of the project Erasmus + Strategic Partnership « ATOMS & CO ».

*This newsletter will be published every fourth months and is intended to inform you on the progress of the project.*

**During this last quarter**, the partners of the ATOMS & Co project focused on the intellectual production "PI 01". Which, as a reminder, consists of: The creation of working groups whose objective will be to study: the representations, experiences and experiences of families (with a particular focus on families at risk of dropping out) with respect to system and the school and vice versa. Then, create a questionnaire and make an inventory, define the needs of land actors and families, and the factors conducive to school attendance and thus create a canvas of good practice.

In **Italy, in Bologna**, on October 19, 2017, the **UNIBO** team organized two focus groups allowing to collect different point of view on the same issues.

The first one happened on October 19 at the University of Bologna. It gathered about thirty people: with teachers, social workers, educators, local actors belonging to about fifteen different institutions to analyze the representations, experiences, practices and critical aspects of the school-family relationship.

The second focus group was held at CIOFS, one of the training organizations of the Gio.Net association. A dozen families from different schools (high schools, technical institutes, vocational training) were invited. The same questions were asked of families.

The following questions were asked during both focus groups:

*How can the relationship between school and families become a force for school and educational pathways? What are the critical steps? Are the critical steps the same for the family and the school? What are the most problematic issues in the relationship with families?*

On the basis of the answers collected, Unibo has developed a questionnaire (available on the website!) to identify the points of view of families on their relationship with the school on the basis of their concrete experience. The aim was to collect the school experiences of families with different socio-economic profiles and with children of different ages. Families were very interested in taking part in the discussion and future actions of the project. They particularly appreciated the attention given to their views on school organizations and decision-making processes in different educational institutions.

On December 14, 2017, **L'Esperança School in Barcelona** (Spain) organized its focus group. Five families (including four using TriniJove services) and four teachers were present. Together sitting in a circle, they answered 3 questions.

1. What do you think about communication / relationship / dialogue (according to your experience) between school and family?
2. Do you think this link could be improved?
3. How could it be improved?

To these questions, the answers of the families were that the relation 'school-family' was family, the communication is easy and diversified (human, via Internet, papers ...). To improve this communication, some have proposed to be trained in the use of the website and other technological tools, others have mentioned the need to increase the regularity between meetings "parents-teachers" to talk about possible pedagogical problems

**In Belgium**, the focus group took place on January 11, 2018. Nine families were present, so to facilitate communication, the facilitators separated the participants into 3 groups. Every 15-20 minutes, participants have changed tables, to speak with new people.

The unanimity was about the importance of the atmosphere within the school and exchange parents - school staff. Indeed, the "family" atmosphere is essential, it allows parents and students to ask questions, to express difficulties and worries without feeling judged. Some parents feel accused of being bad parents. For the school-parent relationship to go well, there needs to be a climate of trust and tolerance: a family atmosphere.

The interest of multidisciplinary teams (management, teachers, educators, psychologist, speech therapist, PMS center (Psycho Medical Social Center), ...) has often been put forward. This makes it easy to separate what needs to be done at home / at school and provides help and personalized follow-up over time.

Another element appeared several times in the conversations: The participation council, a mandatory body that exists in all schools in Belgium. It is an organ that represents the PO of the school, parents, students, teachers, associations. This body is advisory and may have plans for settlement, study tours or others.

## **Questionnaire**

The aim is to help schools organize spaces to meet the needs of families, taking into account the organization of their lives and working time, their expectations of school, the most common problems faced by parents. The questionnaire was therefore designed on the basis of the information gathered during the focus groups, the questions cover various fields such as family situation, school path, questions about the infrastructures of the institutions, extracurricular activities ... The questionnaire will be distributed to a minimum of 50 families per country, with different backgrounds / experiences. Italy distributed its questionnaires as follows: 20 families with primary school children, 20 families of lower secondary or first year of IEFP children and 10 families of upper secondary school or the second year of IEFP children.

The answers to this questionnaire will make it possible to make an inventory and to define the needs of families and ground actors as well as to highlight the factors favorable to keep the students in track, in order to create a canvas of good practices.



**The leader of the project is** FISSAAJ (Belgium) - <http://www.fissaaj.be/>

**Partners:**

Fundacio Per Les Escoles Parroquials, L'Esperança – Arxidiocesi de Barcelona (Spain) - <http://www.fep.cat/>

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (Italy) - <http://www.unibo.it/en>

Comité Européen de Coordination (Belgium) - <http://www.cecasbl.org/fr/>

Fundacio Privada Trinijove (Spain) - <http://trinijove.org/>

Associazione Gio.net (Italy) - <http://www.gio-net.org/>

In the framework of this project, FISSAAJ will work on Belgian level with the following organizations/schools:

G.R.A.In.E – AMO service

SAS-HO Asbl

Ecole Libre Saint-François Harchies

Institut Saint-Charles

**Site** <http://atomsandco.eu/fr/>

The website is now online; we invite you to take a look. We will regularly post the latest news of the project, as well as photos, documents, press articles related to this project, ect.

Feel free to send us your event calendar as well as information, photos, ... We will be happy to publish them in our newsletter and on our website (and of course on Facebook if you'd like).

**Facebook (To come)** <https://www.facebook.com/Atomsco-998070420340366/>



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