

August 2018

Welcome to the third 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.

Introduction of the results from the Intellectual Output 1: state of the art regarding the implication of families towards their children's school dropout issue.

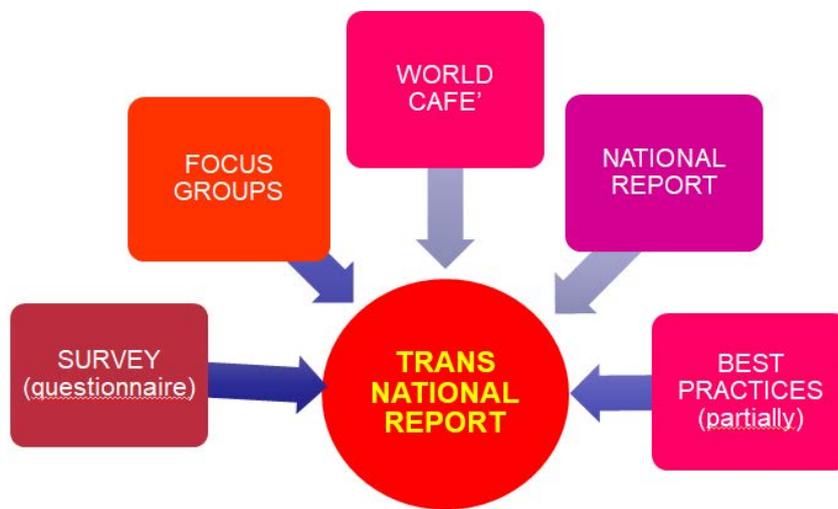
This state of the art conducted by the Education and Sociology departments of the Alma Mater Studiorum of the University of Bologna aims at a transnational level (Belgium, Spain and Italy) to:

- Understand the different means implemented in the rapprochement between schools, families and social help stakeholders such as (youth help services, public social help services...
- Define the needs of field workers, families and to define positive factors to the building of educational alliances.

The state of the art has been achieved in the form of a transnational report and was conducted based on several tools and activities done by all the project partners.

The tools and activities were the following:

- 1. Transnational report:** introducing the scholar system and the school dropout situation as well as the means implemented to overcome it;
- 2. Surveys intended for families in order to identify the opinions of parents regarding the school-families relation:** 208 questionnaires have been collected. The principal results are:
 - School is still kind of a unknown territory for a lot of parents;
 - School provides knowledge to children but the parents have no knowledge of what's really happening in school;
 - Teachers have the growing feeling of being watched and observed;
 - Numerous misunderstanding exists between parents and school due to a lack of communication between both parties;
 - The lack of engagement from the parents seems to be powered by the intern bureaucracy of the school and the denial of the presence of parents within the school;
 - Families wish for a more welcoming and listening school.



One of the conclusions is the paradox between what parents wish for: a more welcoming school and at the same time a stricter, more rigorous school.

The survey also stresses that the prevention tools/services to fight against school dropout are:

- In Italy: psychological support desks (98%) followed by remedial courses (91%) and support for the tutors and educators (90%);
- In Belgium: support for educators and tutors is the most common service (76%) followed by remedial courses (72%) and educational assistance services (67%);
- In Spain: support for the tutors and educators (93%), counselling services (87%) and guidance and orientation counselling services (77%).

3. **Focus Group:** Each partner has gathered families, students, education professionals and youth assistance operators to talk freely about positive and negative point of the relations families have with school and how to improve the future of this relationship;
4. **Word Café:** partners have gathered parents, education professionals and local stakeholders sharing and debating the results of the questionnaires, and suggesting guidelines for the development of the school reintegration centered on the involvement of families.

Summary of some of the results of the Focus Groups and World Café:

- Families need to feel welcome in school in a non-bureaucratic and not too formal in the dialogue with the teachers;
- Feeling of judgement or guilt (parents) instead on a feeling of trust and tolerance;
- School is considered like a nice place also for more difficult children;
- The wall created between both of the parties leads to disproportionate reactions;
- School should be a family, open, caring and with good communication place;
- Need to implement common paths, alliances between school and families;
- Parent/school meeting schedule does not encourage the parents' involvement;
- Some parents intervene in the educational field and it creates tensions et conflicts with the teachers;
- Regret of the disappearance of the "golden age" where only order and discipline ruled but paradoxically, parents also asks for a more welcoming and listening school.

5. **Good practices:** Each partner proposes 5 good practices defining activities and tools making it easier for the involvement of families in the fight against school dropout.

All of the elements introduced above are included in the transnational report that you can find on the Atoms & co website.



The leader of the project is FISSAAJ (Belgium) - <http://www.fissaaaj.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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