**Learn to Learn for Adult Returners**

**(L2L4AR)**

**Analysis of Focus groups: teachers**

**Estonia**

**August 2014**

**TUTORS/TEACHERS REPORT**

1. **Introduction**

There were organised 2 teachers’ focus groups, in both groups 7 teachers. Teachers background were different; folk high school; adult study centre; vocational school; second change school (evening school). The learners in these schools are in very different age and background.

FG facilitators: interviewer and note taker. The session was recorded. A week after the focus group interview was sent control questions to the FG participants by e-mail.

1. **Brief overview**

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| **Importance of learning** | **Definition of the ability to learn to learn; implications, aspects** | **Main factors affecting the efforts of participants to learn** | **Main factors supporting participants to learn effectively** | **Main factors hindering to learn** |
| Learning to learn gives the **basic methods and techniques to get out of any situation**. It is like instilling - I will not be in this situation for ever, I know that every situation has at least two exits - it has to succeed. Every learner should be aware of their abilities and know how to find motivation for learning. This knowledge is called **metacognitive knowledge** and it can never be theoretical nor apprehended from books, but applies to each individual learner and **is an important part of effective learning.**If learner don’t have these skills, it is hard to get profession and to get better position in life.Today it is necessary to be an **active learner – it is to get the knowledge, to process and to evaluate the knowledge – the learner is the supplier, processor and assessor**We constantly face situations where we have to be our own leaders – make our own decisions and guide our way through difficulties. Autonomous learning works the same way. **People who know how to learn, do not need a teacher.** Through developing learning abilities learner`s self-esteem will rise and learner can manage better her /his own life, when she/ he return in old environment.  | Learning to learn is the ability to learn about yourself. Learning to learn means: the capacity of own learning control: **set goals, learning to plan, monitor and evaluate learning process and adjust own activities.**Learning to learn is learning how the learning takes place, learner has to know what and how he should learn.Learning to learn means the capacity of their own learningcontrol: set goals, learning to plan, monitor their learning process,monitor and evaluate their academic performance and adjust their activities.Knowing how to learn means capacity to lead your learning process, **give orders to yourself, and instruct, check and correct yourself. Most importantly it means capacity to find desire, wish and motivation to learn.** | The process has to be well targeted and the **development of learning skills can’t be too short**. In a short time is not possible to become a critical thinker. Also social environment and impact of social environment are huge factors what influence learner`s effort to learn. All start with that how learner excite interest in herself/himself and getting know herself/himself. Ability to learn is closely related to self-knowledge, self-esteem and awareness of the learning process. Important is feeling of success, if this feeling dont arise, then dont come no result in learning process.  | Successful learning can take place only in a **spiritually and physically safe environment, mistakes should be allowed**, the teacher has to know and understand the learners and to be trusted by them. Interesting stories related to the topic being learned, beautifully decorated popular science books, tasks connected with the real life – all these are very effective tools for it. And the **feeling of success** is very important. That’s why all small advancements and their perception are important. Most imprtant is **knowing yourself, boosting self-esteem, learner have to feel that she/he can manage with this learning process.**  | The learners are disturbed by their **negative school experience,** it must be taken into account all the time we design the learning environments. Some perceptions are so rooted, that those can`t change anymore. **Learner have used to do something only in one way, and she/he don’t want to try to do this in different way.****People with low qualification are more influenced by the social environment** than higher qualified people. But at the same time, **the everyday’s social environment does not support their efforts** to get a better education. From home comes judgement, that person dont are capable for something and from this arise apathy, learned helplessness. One problem what hinder learners learning is **lack of concentration**. In teacher company learner is alert, but if attention goes away from her/him, learner have problem with concertration. Other hindering factor is that learner could not to take a position, she/he say that she/he dont care, this is scary, others looking and waiting. |
| **How to develop your ability as teacher in teaching L2L?** | **Main obstacles for young people to learn** | **What skills do they lack in order to deliver on the labour market?** | **Other obstacles on the labour market** | **How to check if young people have adequate learning ability?** |
| Learning environment is very important, **teacher have to begin with creating a comfortable environment and perceiving, encouraging and offering choices to learner.**Very important role plays **teacher** personality, you have to **believe in learners development.**The low qualified learners may not to have experience that someone tells to them **respectfully, try hearing that he has to say, do not make their opinion down**.The teacher is able to successfully fulfil its role only if he **truly believes in the learner**, believes that they can understand what they have been read in the paper and say what they have to say. Anybody else has not expected this before. Learners do better, if they understand that they know how to do something, if they understand that others value them as good person. All this is related with self-esteem.**At first the low qualified people need learning skills, then self-development course**. At the same time we offer mostly the vocational education what they do not want. In fact, instead of the special learning to learn lessons would be much more effective to use the time allocated to learning to learn skills for **practicing the social skills** **– for just chatting, playing or painting. Learning to learn must be continuous and in every action**. If this learning process is really constant, the effect will be noticeable. **Motivation starts with social skills, social skills has to be related with others topics, and with that could rise motivation.** During the active process we try to understand together what it is going on in learners mind, where from the anger is coming. There is a big use from **learning from practice.** And most important – **you have to start from this point where the learner is right today and right now**The learning motivation is coming from the learners side and the educator should be dedicated to help learner with necessary tools - learning skills and competences. **Learning should connect with everyday life.** If teacher put exercise in real life situation, then comes interest from learner, arise understanding and learner understand why they have to learn this.Important is to develop personality and will to learn. |  |  |  |  |

1. **Comments and conclusions**

Learning to learn gives the basic methods and techniques to get out of any situation. Metacognitive knowledge can never be theoretical nor apprehended from books, but applies to each individual learner and is an important part of effective learning. If learner don’t have these skills, it is hard to get profession and to get better position in life. Knowing how to learn means capacity to lead your learning process, give orders to yourself, and instruct, check and correct yourself. Most importantly it means capacity to find desire, wish and motivation to learn. The development of learning skills can’t be too short. In a short time is not possible to become a critical thinker. Also social environment and impact of social environment are huge factors what influence learner`s effort to learn. Important is feeling of success. Successful learning can take place only in a spiritually and physically safe environment, mistakes should be allowed. The feeling of success is very important. That’s why all small advancements and their perception are important. Most imprtant is knowing yourself, boosting self-esteem, learner have to feel that she/he can manage with this learning process.

The learners are disturbed by their negative school experience, it must be taken into account all the time. The everyday’s social environment often does not support learners efforts to learn. It makes learning environment very important, teacher have to begin with creating a comfortable environment and perceiving, encouraging and offering choices to learner. Teacher have to believe in learners development. At first the low qualified people need learning skills, then self-development course. Learning to learn must be continuous and in every action. If this learning process is really constant, the effect will be noticeable. Motivation starts with social skills, social skills has to be related with others topics, and with that could rise motivation.