

Newsletter April 2012

Creative Little Scientists Conceptual Framework

The Conceptual Framework comprising all the issues at stake and defining the parameters which need to be addressed in all subsequent stages of the research was released at the beginning of April 2012. The Framework comprehensively and consistently covers all areas relevant to the concepts touched by the project, mainly including: science and mathematics education with a focus on pre-school and first years of primary school, creativity in education, creativity as a lifelong skill, related teaching and teacher training approaches, as well as relevant issues from the wider areas of cognitive psychology and comparative education.

In sum, the Conceptual Framework, articulates implications for Creative Little Scientists in terms of conceptual foci, the contextual ground to this work, and methodological issues. Comprising the conclusion to Work Package 2, it offers a synthesis of four literature reviews (on science and mathematics in the early years, creativity in education in the early years, teacher education and comparative education respectively). The Conceptual Framework, then, draws together key areas for focus in Creative Little Scientists, suggests an appropriate methodological approach and offers research questions.

It thus provides a structure that can be used to examine policy and practice across the nine European countries involved in the project. Overall its function is to provide a foundation for the following work packages, which include a mapping and comparative assessment of existing

practice realised by the desk study and survey, analysis of practices and implications of these, directions for teacher training, guidelines to policy makers, and will also help inform exploration and dissemination.

You can find the Conceptual Framework in its entirety on:

www.creative-little-scientists.eu/content/deliverables

2nd Project Meeting held in Paris

The second project meeting for *Creative Little Scientists* was held at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, in Paris, France during Thursday 22 and Friday 23 March 2012.



1 All the partners outside the Cite Des Sciences et de l'Industrie

Partners reviewed the development of the ongoing project management and financial issues, monitored the progress of tasks for Work Package 1 (Project Management), Work Package 2 (Conceptual Framework), and Work Package 6 (Dissemination and Exploitation of Findings), built a common understanding of the main

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messages and recommendations of the Conceptual Framework (D2.2), discussed all the issues at stake and the parameters which need to be addressed in subsequent stages of the research and started work on Work Package 3 (Mapping and comparative assessment of existing practice), Work Package 4 (Analysis of practices and implications) and Work Package 5 (Directions for teacher training).



2 Partners during a session of the meeting

Creative Little Scientists teacher survey – Your chance to participate

In order to provide Europe with a clear picture of existing and possible practices, as well as their implications and the related opportunities and challenges, in the intersection of science and mathematics learning, and development of creative skills in pre-school and the early years of primary education (up to the pupil age of eight) the project will conduct a survey across the nine participating European countries. The questionnaire will be online on the project website by the middle of May, but all teachers who are interested in participating can fill out the participation web form by following this link (<http://www.creative-little-scientists.eu/content/participate>).

Dissemination material

The first leaflet of Creative Little Scientists was released on January 2012 and includes general information about the project.



3 The English version of the leaflet

You can find the leaflet in all the languages represented in the consortium by following this link (<http://www.creative-little-scientists.eu/content/leaflets>).

As part of the dissemination plan of Creative Little Scientists, a brochure will be released containing a summary of the Conceptual Framework and emphasizing on the key points that the field research will examine.

All information on dissemination can be found on the project website.

Next consortium meeting

The next meeting for *Creative Little Scientists* will be held at the Open University in Camden, London from 7 to 10 November 2012.



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