



Grundtvig learning partnership **The Grassroots Women's International Academy**
a Peer Learning Strategy applied to the Mother Centers Movement

Final Conference Timing and Minutes

Location: Kolpinghaus Wien Mariahilf, Gumpendorferstr. 39, 1060 Wien

May 14th Publicity Day

9.00 – 9.30 **Opening by Ms Christine Marek, Secretary of State for Family and Youth, Federal Ministry Austria**

9.30 – 13.00 **Presentations on different aspects of the Mother Center movement** by all countries represented in the Grundtvig partnership.

Germany: **Public Living Room, Intergenerational House, Multicultural Integration**

MC always find solutions for social problems

The Dark forest MC experience with children, also the children work on the MC.

The MC start in the end of the 70s in Germany. The start group was a group of mothers than where immigrants, single mothers and people that was no coming to family programs. Monika J. writes a book about it.

MC are everyday life experts, this was a revolution. Everybody can do some thing well: child care, ..etc. In the professional world, is all about clients, money, and MC is care and support.

Open access: welcome everyone, especially mothers. When you have a child you are isolated.

Give value to work, like other jobs: politicians, cleaning people, ...a for that reason we put sometimes money on the voluntary work. Children are in the center, but mother are 50% of MC and we focus on the mothers, if mother is supported child to.

It was a demographic change in the 90s and recluted old people, but still mothers are the center of the MC. MC teaches other institutions how to be inclusive in Germany.

MC needs a lot of creative and work on how made people involving, and also take decision, in our democracy is like this if you get involve you are part of the solution. To do it together, is different from democracy and middle class is use to. We work together also politician and decision making people, we talk different languages, and we must learn not only to be a pain in the ass.

MC is with the people for that are so interesting for politicians. The challenge is that politicians has not answer for everything, and needs MC to know everyday life. In MC we need the voice of all society.

Who comes is welcome, who asks get answers, who wants to be part, is part, and can take tasks and responsibility.

In MC you don't need to any thing more than you know.

MC is a best practice, and has change with society.

The most important is the public living room, a place where mothers can meet and talk about fears, worries, feelings ...etc.

The work, the value, MC is giving to society is so high that society should give money for they work.

Bulgaria MC as empowerment of women, MC as a way of integrating Roma into communities

MC in Bulgaria, 4 centers working with NGO, Integro

Roma are not immigrants, are a minorities in all countries in Europe and they are a lot of negative stereotypes about this community. The community is stigmatized, they life margined, ..but this is image is only a minority of the community.

Stigma is an issue to work on, also the self stigmatization, we need to reinforce self-esteem.

MC as a tool for Roma women, they are women and like the rest of the world are discriminated. Roma women suffer double discrimination, to be women and Roma. Roma women look for better life for their children, and they feel alone often. For that reason we need to reinforce women groups.

Bulgarian society is changing, and families can become more isolated, no like old times, when it was a major support and communication with others in equal level, was formal and informal learning of how to be a mother.

We recognize 3 levels of empowerment:

- Individual empowerment: increasing the self esteem
- Group empowerment:
- Lobbying and networking internationally.

MC has organized them self and after that local authorities become interested in the MC. Local authorities, gives first , a small room, and after they give as a house for 7 years.

Some of the key activities have been the actions to improve the capacity of the MC team, like project management, seminars,...etc

Also we have been involved on a research project about roma women discrimination and they present this research in the MC. The research catch the attention of authorizes.

Interchange experience with roma women, is a key goal One of the goals is to take out women from home and close communities: exhibition, culinary competition, city activities...all those activities are with roman and not roma women. Now they have contacts with women associations in national level.

Other activities:

- Courses: care children, English, culinary, ...where women are expert, as teachers.
- Discussions: family questions, how to take of children,...
- Activities for children and young people,

Spain Why are public authorities interested in MC

No notes were taken of the Spanish presentation.

Turkey How to start self help in the context of a country that defines social work either as state, charity or business(commercial)

The experience in Turkey show up two important actors to establish MC in this country:

- 1.- International children centre (ICC) is a NGO. Created in Paris, but closed due to lack of money and move to Ankara (Turkey).
- 2.- Provincial municipality. Important support of the authorities, than made possible the first MC in Turkey with a big opening.

The first courses we have begin with are: bread feeding, hygiene,...

Austria MC and family/parent education

Rise children is a natural thing, why we need to learn children rising if this a natural ability?

In Austria there is a debate, MC versus family education programs.

Family education can help in replacing old methods for new and better ones, also in essential knowledge, specially those concept more academicals on a formal setting.

In MC we learn from each other, all are mothers, some are trained but not all. All parents are experts, in been mothers and fathers and about lot of other things.

In Mc we don't need to tell they are doing family education, but they do. The key issue is to gives answers to the parents and children needs.

MC needs money from the state but we must to be careful not to be too much institutionalized.

In Austria MC needs to charge a fee to parents to made MC possible and this made MC middle class.

Nowadays MC is member of the ministry of education working group about family.

Slovakia/Germany Universities of Parenthood,

The concept of public living room created another atmosphere to do family education and is a place to give answers to eventualities.

MC is working in a book about family education, hand book.

Education is a private and public issue, we need both. Another pedagogical point is that MC education is a communitary event; we do it together, also in a intergeneration way. We teach each other.

In Slovakia, they are moving from MC to academies of practical parenthood: parental caring, family education. The goal is to reinforce and empower MC.

Part of the education is more academic, because you can not understand your child if you don't know about your self.

In 2007, we start a study with 50 MC, with questionnaire and observation. The result is a book, that is the hand book of the MC. MC are the best place for children socialization.

Czech Republic/Slovakia MC Impact Study results

Prevention of social exclusion

Assistance to comeback to labor market

Consulting services

Childcare: service that 79% of the parents welcome very much that service.

Financial: public money

Czech Republic and Slovakia has carry out an impact study.

Italy Presentation of the mine network

Mother Centres International network, created in 2000,

International campaign like "mothers walk a mille"

International conferences, like : "how to raise our children?" in Bratislava(Slovakia).

Mine is also the coordinator of the Grundvigh project and GWIA

MINE got a Dubai prize of best practice, and to strength public society education?

Poland/Slovakia Move the World Mothers unite worldwide

Slovakia:

They set up a campaign with trolleys, thanks to the union/network of mother centres. Title of the campaign was: "allow me to enter with my child". The goals are very similar to the family friendly cities.

The campaign start in 2001 beginning with 24 restaurants, now they have 5 categories of joining the campaign, for shops, restaurants, offices, ...

Each category has a criteria to be included in: friendly staff, children care facilities,..etc

They have also start a "Baby friendly municipalities", for those that organize activities for children, friendly staff in office, cooperation with MC, ...etc.

+ info: www.materskecentra.sk

Poland

In Poland is no easy to be parents for that reason they organize a civic action, "move the pram, move the world". With a concentration of 250 prams on the street plus children activities, especially for kids younger than 3 years old.

How the action was led? the importance of journalist, with every day article in the journal, open seminar, public discussion, ..etc

They also word with standards: friendly staff, space for prams, intimate place for breast feeding,...etc

We need repeating the needs and situation to change the situation.

Netherlands The overall Grundtvig Project and the GWIA concept

End of the 90s Monika pointed that MC was a good practice, and GWIA organize the first meeting in Germany.

GWIA learn to contact in different levels, is an educational approach. Grassroots groups has been able to travel and interchange for the first time.

Show up the video of the interchange with Turkey.

15.00 – 17.30 Partner Dialog

Questions and Answers on how to build supportive partnerships between Mother Centers on the ground, national and international Mother Center networks and supportive partners representing other stakeholders of society.

Partner Panel – the panel consisted of the following experts:

Mag. Staffe, since 2003 Head of the Dept. Of Child Welfare, Ministry of Family

Ms Roswitha Friedl, Dept. of Youth and Family Offices, City of Vienna

Ms Petra Renz, Editor and PR, Mütterforum Baden-Württemberg

Ms Monika Arlt, pedagogue, Dachverband der unabh. Eltern-Kind-Zentren Österreichs

Ms Waltraud Erharter-Hitthaler, chair of MINE since 2008

Summary of the presentations of the morning:

A: Family education works effectively in MC / EKIZ

D: MC are starting to be on a safe basis. Know-how is valued and taken into communal welfare. MC's work is appreciated and recognised for family friendly structures.

I: children are our future

NL: The concept of MC works under all circumstances and in all contexts.

Question: What can MC bring to our society, how can partnerships be successful, why should they be supported?

Ms Roswitha Friedl: knows MC since 1989 when the City of Vienna opened 3 MCs. They were founded as the need for more exchange and offers for mothers with their children was recognised. The first MCs came up in counselling centres.

The City of Vienna has a different approach but the same cares: it wants to assist parents in giving the possibility to exchange experiences, and wants to support and help parents to come out of their isolation.

Question: What convinced the Ministry to help / assist / support MCs?

Mag. Staffe: The MCs are a fix part in parental education and the Ministry supports such single initiatives and wants to raise public awareness for such issues.

Question: How was the beginning? How did you raise funds?

Ms Monika Arlt: In the beginning all women worked on a goodwill basis, it was all voluntary work. It was difficult to get funds and the way was stony and uphill. What was helpful was the fact that the MC in Wels is a recognised counselling centre.

Question: How was the beginning? How did you raise funds?

Ms Petra Renz: After a case study on this theme the need for MC was proven and centres started opening up. Politics saw the necessity and 3 pilot projects started.

A book, easily readable, about MCs was published.

The funding for MCs has not been raised since 1993, MCs in Germany want more money for the social services they provide and would like appreciation for their work.

Question: How was the beginning? How did you raise funds?

Ms Waltraud Erharder-Hitthaler: The idea came from Germany approx 20 yrs ago. Fortunately politicians agreed with the idea and provided funds.

Statements / questions / discussion:

Ministry of Family is funding the initiatives of parental education. The last 15 yrs the funds have been raised. At the moment everyone is talking about a crisis and the MCs have to be glad that the funds have been frozen at the present level and have not been reduced.

MCs know-how can help to solve problems / deficits; the access should be very low threshold; MCs have a vast supply of knowledge

Parents with a different approach should have different possibilities / offers / counselling, there are different models of parental education with different access for parents

Securing the qualification of staff in MCs is important, Austria has introduced a curriculum for the education of staff, it provides a quality award if the education reaches a certain standard, Katharina Kamelreiter is on the board of experts developing this curriculum.

Innsbruck has qualified employees (psychologist, social worker, ..) and would like to know if there women have to do more exams as regulated in the curriculum. → The aim of the curriculum is to reach an Austrian-wide standard. This is so important as parental education is very important. The curriculum has been worked over and adapted to suit the present needs.

→ Following the curriculum is not obligatory at the moment but it is important to have further education in parental education

All employees / helpers in MCs are mothers and some have professional education, too. The visitors profit from the know-how of the employees because they are mothers.

How to bridge the rift between parental know-how and professional educated people? Visits in MCs should be supported; parents accept advice there because it is not like education in official schools.

General question: what would you wish for at Christmas (except more funds)?

Ms Petra Renz: 1,5 employees to do the daily work so I can concentrate on my specialities and abilities that are sometimes wasted as everything is important in a MC and has to be done.

Ms Monika Arlt: The members of the Austrian MC Union (Dachverband der unabh. Eltern.Kind-Zentren Österreichs) do not get paid for their working hours and it has no own office.

Ms Edeltraud Voill: not necessarily financial aid but help in the form of rooms for a conference like this, sharing of addresses to build a network channel, common PR together

General question: How could the cooperation become even better?

Mag. Staffe: The cooperation is working well. What is important is the local network between private initiatives, as there seems to be some rivalry at the moment. One should not lose the focus: namely what is good for parents.

Ms Roswitha Friedl: All should try to get out of the rivalry situation / thinking as this does not make sense in the view of parents. They just want good quality.

Ms Monika Arlt: networking with private initiatives is good, networking with initiatives funded by the church or a political party is difficult.

General question: Where will be in 5 years?

Mag. Staffe: probably in a different Ministry again ;-)
More people will recognise the advantage of help and assistance tailored to suit parents. More people will visit MCs.

Ms Roswitha Friedl: I will be in pension otherwise I would still try to get as much funfs as I could for MCs as I got a lot of motivation out of this conference.

Ms Monika Arlt: would like to send the wishing-fo list to Father Christmas: The MC would need a playground, a counselling room, a gymnastics room, a 2nd hand shop, a parental university.....

Ms Waltraud Erharter-Hitthaler: a more- generation house like in Stuttgart

Ms Petra Renz: lots of financial support by the community; lots of people bringing in their resources and abilities

Visions of MCs:

A: MCs can pass on their philosophy to the next generation of mothers & parents.

D: Work in MCs should be paid by a base salary. Communities should include MCs in the planning of space & personnel costs.

I: Family is more. Family is culture.

NL: More projects where work & income for mothers is integrated. A good volunteer policy.

May 15th: Harvesting the Grundtvig Partnership

Morning: **Plenary**

9.00 – 10.30: General debate on the issue: What should we highlight in our final report?

Spain:

Final report:

- Dissemination: knowledge of the concept MC in the province of Barcelona
- Issues we have learn to improve our women's centres: self management, participation, diversity of women and needs, options on the labour market thanks to voluntary work, family friendly cities campaigns,...etc.
- Better knowledge of some initiatives in the territory, like family centres and parental centres,
- We have built a first step of a bridge between municipalities and women's groups interested on MC.

Austria

- Methodologies to use and trying to implement some of those.
- New information and experiences.
- We learn to organize ours self
- Improve languages competences
- To know our limits and work with those limits: reflection and practices.
- Mc are different but the basis (philosophy) are the same
- How to spread the concept of MC
- Meetings are also a tools for empowerment
- Project organising skills

Bulgaria

- Experiences of others and exchanges
- Empowerment of women.
- enable us to see forward
- to set long-term goals
- interesting to see MCs development
- we saw so many new ideas, specially about the impact of MC in the society
- the Grundtvig project made us feel that we belong to a big MC family

Czech Republic

- Interchange and networking
- The idea that MC are spreading from all over the world.
- accept different local conditions but find common ideas
- Language experiences and improvement
- we took the German idea and now we can also help to spread it
- to work on what is common together
- we know that somebody is always going to give us a hand and that we can also give somebody a hand
- improvement of organizational skills
- it is necessary to take MCs idea without pushing it

The Netherlands

- Experience of interchange, and vital for the expansion of MC
- Interchange with other countries, to see differences and things in common: you see your strengths and weaknesses
- Motivation to find better places, to approach people from other countries
- We have learn to organize
- it was our interest to look into intergenerational MCs
- it was a great eye opening experience
- it was good being able to make questions and getting answers
- mouth to mouth propaganda
- we learned that talking to people from other countries and cultures you broaden your horizons
- we noticed that each country have their own problems and they have also their own approaches

Germany

- Visit and interchange from Spain: we are now connected in another level. We have learnt from our guest, we learn and know the other side better. Spanish community in Stuttgart is very proud, identity and integration are important concept that should go together. Immigrants are proud if they can give back, if they have good experiences, they want to return back the good experiences to the own country.
- Good influences in the country thanks to the visits (local influence from global action).
- Reflecting if the direction is correct.
- International lobby.
- Working together with people never will do in another context – international work gives opportunity to meet different people – enriching the work process
- In these visits we discussed 3 main points: integration, network, start up new MCs where it doesn't exist
- We felt this immediate understanding
- MCs profited on what is important in the essence
- We started a better network with Bavaria, a very strong exchange
- The pressure during the process was good
- The impact study was very important. We learned a lot from Slovakia and Czech Republic
- The exchange gave us a big impulse and gave the impression, that we are on the right track
- The exchange visits were very enriching
- We visited the Ministry and we saw the importance of MC as a tool, as an important partner of the government. We reinforced the cooperation of the "4 motors" between the countries
- It is always good for us to be part of Europe: as an European lobbying partner we reach a higher level of importance and we get an international "place"
- MCs as political instrument
- Transfer of knowledge
- The exchange visits were professionally organised
- We had a very important dialogue round with Spain about migration and identity bounding
- Giving and Taking
- different mentalities, we are in constant process
- Learning how to do it with and from each other

Poland

- The importance of women's energy
- Methodologies of MC, rich and diverse.
- Working in different levels: political, NGO, MC...
- Exchange of knowledge in both ways, exchange of experience, ideas, strengths
- Empowerment of polish leaders
- Creation of the Platform Patchwork
- Dissemination: articles on press, conference with academic participation...etc
- how the same idea can reach different MCs
- we saw how MC can cooperate with politics at the same eye level
- recognition of grassroots needs – how to start a MC in Poland
- the meetings gave us plenty of new ideas
- our center also changed, it became more and more open for mothers
- we learned how to work with tasks and deadlines
- our language skills have improved
- we bring MCs voices in political tables

Slovakia

- Platform for cooperation in the future about family education
- family education is maybe a very good platform
- how to stay together as an international network

Turkey

- One MC, no one before the project
- Empower of women, in a very patriarchal society, in that context set up a MC is big step.
- MC can be a god tool for empowerment of women with the support of municipality
- Training group with members of municipalities, NGO, and grassroots women from the town.
- MC is very interesting for countries that want to improve the maternities conditions.
- Dissemination: videos, power point presentation, brochure, ... documents, webpage and videos to make municipality interested
- importance and difficulties of bottom up approach

- difficult when women are not empowered enough to start themselves something
- difficulties to convince authorities about the importance of the project
- convince government and municipality, but also other women
- gather women and mothers to volunteer is important
- MC's ideas is on the heart of organization that care about children, women and welfare
- We learned a lot from the experience with Holland but we also wanted to learn from Bulgaria because of our similarities
- It should continue as a self-help movement
- You try to empower the women when you have a need, but is important to value volunteer work as well
- Cooperation is important.
- Maybe communication is not going well but all is working well
- Because of the work we prepared a start up document in English

11.00 – 12.30

General debate on the issue:**Spreading MC as a project versus spontaneous dissemination of MC****SWOT analysis: creating MC from top down**

STRENGTHS Financial and practical issues: support from the beginning on, rooms,...etc you have the know-how. Good standards: organization, services,... Technical support and facilities are provided. Training is much easier You have legal status.	WEAKNESSES Depending to much on the top (municipalities, NGO) Lack of decision making: lack of freedom to take decisions Less energy and motivation, (spirit) Team not selected for the ideas, motivation ... (professionals but bureaucrats). Lack of flexibility, to adapt to new situation, welcome new people,... Self help is not encouraged Its based on needs not in picking up ideas of the community
OPPORTUNITIES Option to create future network Platform to develop other initiatives Create dialog /bridge between society and administration Lobby Organization can come back and to take over Professional development	THREATS Loss of the contact with the women grassroots groups No ownership: Space never seen as they own place Manipulation of the MC idea by the government (political abuse) Depending on political changes Create passive consumer not empowered people.

SWOT analysis creating MC from bottom up

STRENGTHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy, enthusiasm, motivation, creativity - Fulfilling the real needs / needs based approach - Voluntaries - More learning - More attractive → more people - Freedom - Responsibility - Same eye level - Ownership of the idea - Democratic based approach 	WEAKNESSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-management / leadership - Sustainability - Funding - Capacity / human capacities & limits - Limited resources - Burning out syndrome - Undervalued work - Self management and leadership can be a problem
OPPORTUNITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community building - Influence on family education - Empowerment of mothers / women - Generate interest to be able to advocate / lobbying 	THREATS / RISKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Image as "coffee drinkers" - Culture barriers for bottom up/gender discrimination - Isolation - Credibility & liability - Loose track of volunteers - Misuse & abuse of the idea

14.00 – 16.00 **Afternoon: Working Groups**

Working Group I: What was learned about the contribution of MC to the Grundtvig themes integration, civic participation and empowerment?

A.-Intercultural dialogue

Coaching visits, what we have learn about it?

The Intercultural dialogue is understood in two ways: the intercultural dialogue establish in between partners and what we have learn to implement intercultural approach in our centers and country.

Some ideas:

- Intercultural dialogue is not verbal communication, is more like feelings, actions, ..etc
- Women can offer a lot, and this is the challenge: made some thing for the community no only for one self.
- MC has not migrant approach but they have migrants in the MC (Stuttgart, Germany)
- "I have a home fare away of home" Stuttgart

Learning experiences on intercultural dialogue

What were your experiences during the exchanges and the coaching visits?

What do you think about your experiences now?

Turkey	<p>We got the chance to see several centers and each was different to the other. It was very important for us, because we didn't know anything about MC and how they can work at all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming home we talked about our thoughts:" Oh, we could do this/that...." - We had to think about how to adapt the ideas from the centers we have visited to our situation in Turkey. • Our "learners" were so inspired in every stage of the Grundtvig learning partnership. They got a new view of what would/could be possible. - Our situation in Turkey is difficult. Usually a Turkish woman doesn't say what she wants. (They depend on their husband, the government, religious groups,... - she is kind of invisible.) They got an idea of the possibility to make something for themselves, something what they really want.
Nether-land, Spain	<p>Throughout this process we always talked about how to change things. Accessory we learned a lot by living together with different women on different places (castle, monastery, youth-hostel,...). Just being together, talking, cooking, caring about one another, to understand each other, to respect the other,...</p> <p>All this was a MC-learning process.</p>
Spain	<p>There are 2 different aspects for 2 different learning processes concerning the intercultural dialogue.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The intercultural dialogue itself 2. The intention to make the MC more intercultural
	DIALOGUE is the method.
Turkey Germany	<p>Since Turkish women can visit the MC in Gaziantep they can talk about their lives. (children died, marriages are not registered – therefore their children are not registered too, women have too many children, their husbands often leave the city to find work somewhere else, nobody knows when they come back, they are married with relatives and are afraid of getting children,....)</p> <p>The mother center is a save place where they can talk about that.</p>
Nether-land	<p>We learned by giving and taking.</p> <p>I Know, working in MCs is always work in very different ways.</p>
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intercultural dialogue is a kind of communication behind the language. – We use symbols (hope). • Intercultural can also mean working together of different groups (church, political party,...) – in Poland all the groups (MC) which work together are in cities. It's difficult to get together with groups in rural regions.
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bulgaria (a Roma- MC) they wanted to have more Bulgarian women in the center because they thought it would be easier for them to get money for the center.

	<p>More cultures in a MC make it easier to get money for the center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learning process in cultural learning took place in exchanges and coaching visits. The main things happen by face-to-face situations. • After each visit we had another value process. The transfer-process. – Telling those who stayed at home about our experiences and impressions.
Spain	<p>In Stuttgart we learned a lot about intercultural dialogue by visiting the MC which integrates immigrants in a very natural way. It is a good example for learning how it can work. MCs have integration without having an integration program. You just come in and you can make decisions. You bring yourself into the center. – It's an attitude. "I have a home away from home."</p>

B.- Civic engagement

Accomplishments of the partnership

- Networking with others groups, programs,...in our country or others
- Working with NGO, municipalities, MC, networks, academia: this is a pedagogical issue and made us more prepared for a new society more complex. We learn that MC, municipalities, NGO has different points of view but they need each other.
- Civic actions and civic engagement

Learning experiences on Civic engagement

How? What?, When?

Bulgaria	The visit to the Netherlands was very important. Coming back they started to think about how to bring the resources and talents around them into the center. – They got " <u>open mind</u> " for what could be possible.
Netherlands	You see something and you start to think about your own MC. You start to think about possibilities to change your situation in your MC.
Spain	<p>Hints for the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate everything what you have organized. (Who was invited?, lists, brochures, articles in newspapers, photos, films, papers,....) • Links –be sure that they work!
Germany	In every country we saw how they do lobby work.
Netherlands	<p>The Grundtvig program was a very good motivation for the immigrants in the home country. We organized a film evening about our exchange visit to Turkey and a lot of people came and were really interested (Many of them Turkish immigrants in our country). They feel a connection to the people in the MC in Turkey. They are interested in the activities and people there. "What's going on in Gaziantep at the moment?" Being part of a movement all over the world makes you stronger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not in the program, but also very interesting: Learn something about the living conditions of woman in other countries (condition of birth, childcare condition, ...)
Bulgaria	MC made a research? about Roma women at work?
Netherlands	<p>The partner dialogue yesterday was difficult for us to understand, because we didn't knew the connections. But it was interesting to see how the political backgrounds influence the MC work. Learning from other strategies!</p>
Germany	<p>Through the program we got in contact with MC with very different backgrounds. Civic example - local to local and different ones on one table! We talked about problems with one another. – Even though points of us are different we can learn from one another.</p>

C.-Empowerment

Accomplishments of the partnership

- Seminars about empowerment
- Management of the project has been a way of empowerment and learning
- New women's groups coming up, new MC, new labor market jobs, ...
- New financial sources found
- Improvement in the way works the groups, in tasks, ...
- Understanding the intolerance

Empowerment Learning experiences - A brainstorm:

What were your experiences during the exchanges and the coaching visits?
What do you think about your experiences now?

How? What?, When?

Spain	What do they want in Brussels? - Pictures, videos, Woman who "fight" for a MC.
Bulgaria	Lilly made a paper after Barcelona. She will send it.
Poland	Evaluation??
Spain	An Example could be: A woman who created her own job. Or: A woman who found a new income-possibility.
Netherlands	We learned how to organize a low-budget meeting. We combined the coaching visits with exchanges from other groups in the NL.
Turkey	The coaching in Poland was very important. Now we are able to help others successfully.
Poland	We are individually empowered by the duty to keep deadlines, The making of presentations, ...
Turkey	They learned how to organize community for the idea of MCs. mobilization, building awareness
Austria	Empowerment came through the whole process. – The top was the Vienna conference. We learned that we can manage crises.
Netherlands	Solidarity
Turkey	Understanding, acceptance and tolerance are the basis to be ready to work together.
Poland	Empowerment for woman = empowerment for children
Turkey	After the visits we were empowered to address our wishes/demands to local authorities. - We started to knock on doors in a self confident and strengthened way.
Netherlands	We got the possibility to empower our movements.
Austria	You are empowered by getting the possibility to do jobs which you are not trained at.
Poland	People who don't know Mother groups think they are not important, strange, crazy, ... – When they hear that this group is in an EU-project and they realize all this other MC-movements they change their mind.
Netherlands	To get empowerment we make grassroots voices heard by politicians.
Germany	We are empowered by the knowledge that we have fellow workers all over the world. – Some of them we met face-to face.

Working Group 2: Finalising the Training Materials/Curriculum.

- Send all the existing materials to Andrea laux@mine.cc by End of June 09!

Working Group 3: Continuing the partnership, further potential for networking

Why should we cooperate?

- We are a “good” family / friendship
 - Exchange = enrichment
 - Exchange of persons, of mothers also
 - Language improvement
 - Sharing experience
 - More energy together is synergy, together we can do more
 - Spreading / multiplication
 - Support
 - Credibility
 - Stronger public relations / stronger statement when together
 - Fundraising is easier
- Dreams
- Exchanges in person /MC “personal traveler” → mobility
 - List of MCs that offer accommodation on internal website
 - “missionary” → expanding to new countries
 - National networks
 - Mine hotel
 - To achieve space in European Parliament / our lobby & advocacy
 - Find someone that will hear us in Parliament → “Brussels Bus” “MC on wheels”
 - Political education
 - This can open doors for EU money
 - International MC day – mine day **10.10.2010**
 - MC story book, travelling story book (for a year) → introduction written by Monika with supportive statements
 - Importance of a press release about the conference and its results

16.30 -18.00 **Plenary**
Reports from the Working Groups and Completing the Project
(What needs to be done by when and by whom to finalise the Grundtvig Project).

WG 1 and 2 Deadlines:

- Before 22nd sending notes from this meeting to Katharina: info@ekiz-dachverband.at, and cc to kamelreiter.kath@gmx.net
- 7th June Minutes of the meeting sent from Austria to all the partners
- All materials needs to be sent before end of June: to Andrea: laux@mine.cc
- National report September
- Final report in English in July sent by Andrea to all the partners

WG 3 International mothers centre day 10th October every year, first 2010: open doors, family activities, ...etc. First step “travelling book”, first page to be written by Monika and after travelling to all MC

Day 3: Saturday May 16th: Mother Center Networking meeting

9.00h – 16.00h Location: Mother Center Nanaya, Vienna

MINE Jahreshauptversammlung nach dt. Vereinsrecht

- By the end of June, make a list of MCs that offer accommodation
- MC “missionary” → new MCs in Turkey and Serbia
- We have to connect with good partners to spread the idea
- Political awareness building → try to contact local MPs
- Letter “what do you think about family policy in EU?” → we make a first draft of this letter together

Country reports

Germany

- Toronto conference
- December 2008 – European meeting – Andrea represented mine & EKiz
- Monika proposed MC in Russia, it failed
- Barcelona conference, mine meeting
- 10 mine meetings → 1x month
- Heads of mine have another meeting, to become closer
- Not very successful fund raising
- Functional website, improve the site
- LSP training in Slovakia

Argentina

- A stand at the World social forum
- We got several connections
- We want to go a little more in the continent
- We will participate at a Forum in Turkey
- We are trying a proposal to connect EU & Latin America → we have a contact but it isn't real yet

Holland

- Marieke talked about competence balance
- German youth institute project for migrants
- Training for MCs, workshops to spread the idea
- Don't forget to measure the results
- Monika made a EU appointment on 7/09 in Holland. → “how do you want to raise our children” is very key
→ family education working group
- Grundtvig application on family education: Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Holland
- We tried to keep the contact and we got new contacts (Süd Tirol for example)
 - ❖ MC Story Telling book: Preparing the book for the first input (Monika Jaeckel)

Thanks to Andrea, Petra and Juliana (Germany), Anna (Spain), Christine and Susen (Austria) for their notes, which are the basis of these minutes!

Thanks to Elena for the moderation on Friday!