

*SUP*porting Problem-solving
mentalities in *lifelong*
learning for Trainers |

SUPPORT

SUPPORT 
Problem Solving in
LifeLong Learning

Intellectual Output 2

Briefing Paper on:

*The COVID-19 pandemic and
the prospect of the SUPPORT
project results: Outlets and
Possibilities*



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The COVID-19 pandemic and the prospect of the SUPPORT project results: Outlets and Possibilities

Experience in the SUPPORT Piloting Workshops

We provide the insights of the SUPPORT Piloting workshops in alphabetical order.

European Dimension

The European Dimension workshop was held online on the 24th of January 2022, and had a diverse working group of 5 participants from multiple European countries, activated in the field of adult education policy and practice. The group on the context of isolation, distance learning and the effectiveness of tools such as the ones provided in the SUPPORT Platform discussed new possibilities and opportunities for the changed future the adult education sector has ahead.

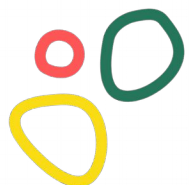
After discussing the overall look and feel of the platform, participants found the content of the learning scenarios relevant to the challenges of both organisations and educators. Visual stimulus and more comprehensive visual representation will be essential for the future of online learning platforms, as due to the pandemic, the educator's eye is more trained and tired by long texts and repetitiveness. The group argued that there is a need for clearer and swifter representation, such as the one that was drafted during the SUPPORT project and provided the consortium with extremely useful insights.

The participants also discussed in detail the visualisation of the Near Peer Learning Schemas which they found really interesting and are looking forward on expanding their conceptual structure with their learners.

The group concluded that trainers and adult education organisations seek opportunities and outlets such as the SUPPORT platform that are satisfying in terms of look and feel but also are representative and in touch with the realities of their target groups.

Greece

During the Greek installment of the piloting workshops concerning the results included in the SUPPORT Trainers' Platform DAFNI KEK invited, on the 14th of January 2022, 11 people from local community centers, primary and secondary education, higher education, adult education, professional training, counselors, and local initiatives to discuss among others the challenges that became more evident in the practice of adult educators and how a platform such as the SUPPORT platform could aid in battling these challenges in the pandemic era as well as a post pandemic era.



The educators stressed that as educators, especially for the ones newer to the field, it is crucial to have access to activities and input coming directly from experience and not from a sterile textbook, thing that was perceived to be a great strength of the learning scenarios, that considered online tools that could be integrated in an isolation-era classroom.

A member of a local community center mentioned that during the pandemic it became even more evident that there are multiple initiatives that have been working with tools and methodologies like the ones included in the SUPPORT Platform and the way they are provided through the learning scenarios is inspiring for a new age of adult educators. As of that a team of the community center has already started creating repositories and scenarios that will be integrated in the SUPPORT Platform so that whatever may come that keeps people isolated we can always get back to the activities that people created and will find new ways to communicate and learn

As a conclusion of the workshops phase on the effect of COVID-19 and the role that the SUPPORT Platform can play in a later pandemic era and a post-pandemic era was that problem solving is the very core of adult and alternative education because it is in the very core of battling barriers and promoting access in a world were the digital gap is a problem posed and a solution to be given for equal access.

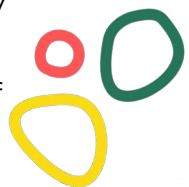
Italy

In Italy the piloting workshops installment targeted 9 adult educators and volunteer youth workers online and in presence, on the 13th of January 2022, to discuss the importance of online platforms and spaces in the era of the pandemic and more transferable in other instances where distance learning is necessary.

The participants felt that the SUPPORT Platform is extremely in line with what the trainers needed to have during the pandemic and they where really glad to disseminate it with colleagues even in its early stages, while the pandemic was still at large.

Participants consider the objectives of the Support project to be extremely in line with what has to be achieved holistically and collaboratively between different organizations in a national and European level in order to have access to a rich wealth of tools that can aid distance learning and as such problem solving.

As a conclusion the group raised the fact that problem solving mentalities have to be cultivated through constant cooperation and agreement with all levels of practice in adult education, as the main challenge during the pandemic was the lack of access in comprehensive platforms that could provide adult educators with tools with which they could work digitally as face to face learning has a different dynamic which cannot be replicated but as a community we must find beauty and effectiveness in other ways of cooperation in this ever changing future that awaits.



Lithuania

The Lithuanian piloting workshops were held online on the 8th, 14th and 22nd of March 2022 to discuss the different elements of the SUPPORT Platform and how they related to the needs of adult educators in urban and rural areas of Lithuania that were called to operate under challenging circumstance of the pandemic.

The educators main outlook and experience was directed on how it is essential for local population to have access to tailor-made results for their needs. The participants to that extent raised the importance of a lively and discussive SUPPORT forum for the future as it expected in the 2 years following the SUPPORT Project.

Cooperation and dialogue between trainers from different countries was also in the very core of the discussions as experiences differ and only through understanding and welcoming diversity in the way trainers resolve problems they were able to tackle the challenges that snowballed during the pandemic.

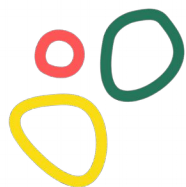
All participants concluded that the future of education and training has forever reshaped and there is a need of local and international initiatives and tools available in all European languages to ensure that Europe will not have in its futures different classes of educators shaped by the lack of access in quality results.

Spain

The Spanish piloting workshops that included a strong suggestive section on the effect of the pandemic towards problem-solving mentalities of the was carried out on the 8th and the 15th February 2022 face-to-face.

All participants included in this workshop were Prat Educació' teachers with an interest in problem-solving, some of whom were already familiar with the project as they had been interviewed for the purpose of IO1. As such they were really keen on discussing how the SUPPORT Platform should be integrated in the practice of the organization in its own as well as towards other educational centers in Spain.

The trainers stressed the need for comprehensive material in the language of the educator as language is a barrier that has to be overcome in order to talk about an accessible and equal European adult education. Through that comment and the suggestions of the Lithuanian workshops, the SUPPORT consortium decided to keep on translating the entirety of the content and not only the summative version designed and compensated during the project implementation period.





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