



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



Official newsletter of the T-Story - Storytelling Applied to Training project, funded by the transversal action “Key Activity 3 – Information and Communication Technologies” within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme.

We are very pleased to present to you the second official newsletter concerning the new information about T-Story project’s last activities and plans. We, the project team, hope that together with our readers we will promote a wider use of the Storytelling and Digital Storytelling in education and training at all levels (formal, non-formal and informal). We also expect that the method of Storytelling and Digital Storytelling can be an effective tool for the development of creativity, innovation and effectiveness of educators/trainers throughout Europe by developing a digital course and interesting materials useful in educational practice.

About the project

Storytelling is an innovative pedagogical method that can be useful in order to:

- engage learners in a process of learning,
- enhance learner’s motivation by using attractive forms of personal narrative,
- enrich their communication and collaboration,
- involve their emotions in the process of creating and analyzing stories.

Storytelling also allows the enrichment of learners own reflection on the learning process.

Storytelling reveals creativity and improves imagination through the use of metaphor and simple narrative forms.

Storytelling can be combined with the latest technologies and in this digital form has the potential to be used in formal and non-formal education as well as work environment. Digital storytelling involves combining narrative with digital content.

Digital stories can include:

- interactive movies with (high quality) audio and visual effects,
- slide presentation with narration and/or music.

The project products that will be developed

- A Learning Handbook on Storytelling for teachers / trainers / educators comprising theoretical background on storytelling and technical information about digital storytelling.
- A Digital Course for teachers/trainers/ educators providing training on storytelling technique through digital storytelling.

First Newsletter Summary

The first newsletter was edited in June 2013 and contained general information about the project T-Story. It clarifies the most important information about the project:

- the main goals and objectives,
- expected results and products
- target groups of T-Story Project
- educational advantages storytelling methods for learners.

You can find the first edition of Newsletter on our website – www.tstory.eu

Some learning theorists believe that storytelling - as a pedagogical technique - can be effectively applied to nearly any subject. Constructing a narrative form demands to think carefully about the topic and the audience's perspective so it is an effective tool for developing communication skills and one's own possibilities of self-expression.

The **aim** of T-Story is to promote a wider use of Storytelling and Digital Storytelling in education and training at all levels throughout Europe by developing a digital course for educators, teachers and trainers.

Our Last International Meetings

In order to ensure good collaboration and high quality of work, the partners organize international project meetings, where they sum up the tasks already completed, discuss about the project's process, activities, and products and they plan the next steps.

2nd Partnership Meeting Timisoara (Romania) 16-17.05.2013

During that meeting a preliminary analysis of the data from research on training needs of teachers/trainers/educators in all partner countries was presented. The first results made clear two important issues regarding the learning handbook and digital course development:

- the low level of knowledge regarding the concepts of storytelling
- even lower level of knowledge about digital storytelling and its educational possibilities.



Partners started to design the learning program and materials for creating a handbook and a digital course that promote collaborative learning and interaction.

Considering the principles: attractive, innovative, interactive and flexible delivery, the partners started a brainstorming to collect ideas about learning topics, steps, questions and competences to be included in the handbook and digital course.

3rd Partnership Meeting Lodz (Poland) 17-18.10.2013

This meeting served the purpose of planning, executing common tasks and evaluating activities. Partners presented and discussed about:

- **The final version of research report of the training needs** of teachers/trainers/educators regarding key digital storytelling competences and ICT skills.
- **The preliminary version of the learning handbook** – the content of the book and graphics.
- **Digital Storytelling Course structure and its graphic design** – visual elements of the course.
- **The design of a promotional video** – its visual aspects and content.

The conclusions from the research are useful for the project handbook and digital storytelling course.

The main idea of learning handbook is to learn storytelling through storytelling so it will be divided on five chapters:

- I- “Once upon a time”,
- II - “Storytelling”,
- III- “Digital and Information + Communication technologies”,
- IV- “Digital Storytelling”
- V- “The end”.



That book is creating a kind of story for learners!

The Digital Storytelling Course will be based on the content of the learning handbook and the course is planning as innovative, interactive and easy to use. The content of the course will be prepared in seven languages (all partner countries), so every user will be able to choose the language for easier learning.

The main sets of skills that will be developed through digital storytelling course are:

- empathy,
- imagination,
- relativity,
- planning,
- flexibility.

- **We are on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn**
- **We are developing the content of Learning Handbook**
- **We are preparing Digital Storytelling Course**
- **All of us are organizing National Seminars for our Target Groups**

Agenda of National Seminars

- 12th June 2013 – 1st T-Story National Seminar of Poland, AHE, Lodz, Poland,
- 19th June 2013 – 1st T-Story National Seminar of Greece, UOWM, Florina, Greece,
- 27th June 2013 - 1st T-Story National Seminar of Spain, Zaragoza, Spain,
- 8th July 2013 – 1st Dutch National Seminar (Round Table Conference), Netherlands,
- 26th July 2013 – 1st Portugal National Seminar, Oporto
- 5th October 2013 - 1st Italian National Seminar on T-Story project in Baveno, Italy.
- 14th October 2013 - 1st Italian National Seminar on T-Story project in Timisoara, Romania.

What's happening

National seminars were planned as the next project activity and we organized them as a single event - especially dedicated to the project, storytelling and digital storytelling method and the project's main products – a handbook and a course. National seminars were held in almost all countries.

During these events we presented:

- T-story project's idea;
- the goals and objectives of T-Story project;
- planned outputs and outcomes;
- characteristics of the method of storytelling in educational practice;
- specific of digital storytelling, possible applications and tools;
- advantages of storytelling and digital storytelling for teachers and learners.



Specific of National Activities

Portugal

T-STORY project was presented on the **International Meeting of Oral Narrative at Oporto in July 2013.**

Um Porto de Contos was a national event that hosted several artistic languages to tell stories. An art exposition, a market, guide visits, plastic arts, space for discussion, music concerts, theaters are some examples of what could be found during three days.



General information on this event can be found under:

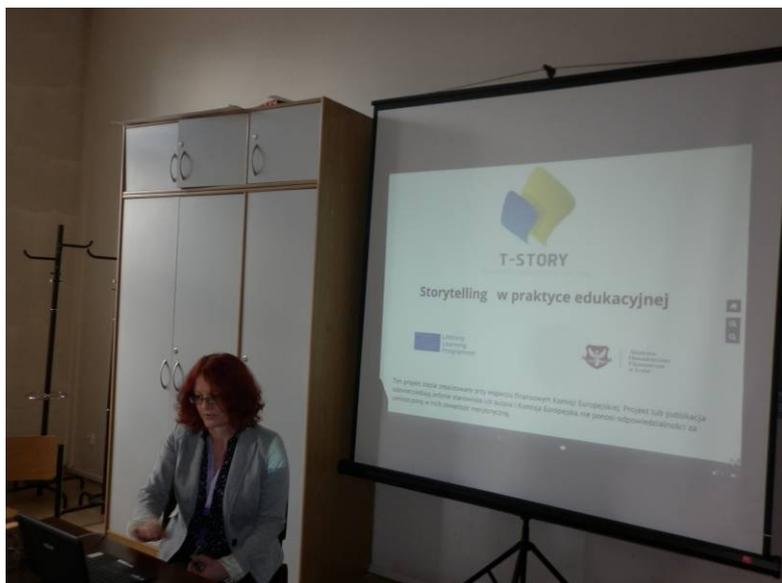
<https://www.facebook.com/PortodeContosFestival>

www.umportodecontos.com

The main Portuguese national seminar will be organized soon, and news will be uploaded at the project website and social networks.

Poland

The 1st Polish National Seminar on T-Story project was organized in Lodz in AHE, on 12th of June 2013. Topics of presentation aroused great interest of attendants belonging to the target groups. We prepared the presentation in Prezi program to illustrate specific of the project content, storytelling method and characteristics of digital storytelling. In this presentation we illustrated how to use different multimedia tools to create a story. Prezi presentation of the T-story project was a good way to build curiosity among listeners and encourage them to develop their competences connected with digital storytelling.



Seminar participants learned more about the course and textbook multimedia self-study methods storytelling, which will be the main products of the project and will be available for free after registration on our website.

Twenty five people attended the seminar. They were teachers of all levels of education and also administrative staff from educational institutions.

Spain

National Seminar was held on 27th of June 2013 in Zaragoza. The seminar was organized in FASE (Zaragoza, Spain) to present the project of T-Story. The seminar was promoted through social networks, websites and even with a mailing to potential end users or stakeholders. Twenty people attended the seminar.



The presentation includes among other things, its goals and objectives, European partners, related links Storytelling in Spain, Web tools that can be used for Storytelling, videos on Storytelling, survey results and upcoming events. Topics of presentation aroused great interest of attendants belonging to the target groups (mainly teachers and trainers). After the seminar, we organized a wine testing where participants continued, in a more relaxed way, talking about storytelling, future project activities, their personal experiences and doing networking.

Greece

T-Story was presented by UOWM at a round table discussion about digital storytelling, within the 3rd National Conference "Integration and Usage of ICTs in the Educational Process", held on 12th of May 2013, in Piraeus.


Knowledge about storytelling of the respondents of different nationalities:

- The largest majority of respondents indicate they previously knew about storytelling.
- The knowledge was not the same among respondents from different countries (for example in Poland there are more people who didn't know about storytelling than those who know).
- The answers about digital storytelling were very different compared to the storytelling section - the vast majority of respondents had not even heard about digital storytelling. The low level of knowledge of digital storytelling (57,89% of respondents have not ever heard about it, 61% don't use it in class, 91,3% in social life, and 76% don't provide examples) can be related to the superficial knowledge of storytelling.

The discussion revealed the great interest of the Primary and Secondary Education teachers in Digital Storytelling. Overall, ninety five people attended the discussion and expressed their interest in following the project's activities, including the training session in the future.

Italy

The 1st Italian National Seminar on T-Story project has been recently realized in Baveno (Italy), on the Lake Maggiore, last 15th October 2013, with an audience composed by post graduate students of a Master.



The occasion was a lesson on storytelling and its flexible use in different fields, such as medicine, business and, of course, learning. The T-Story presentation has been the best way to concretely illustrate how stories together with digital tools can improve the learning outcomes, how many potentialities and possibilities there are to take advantage from them.

The project has raised interest and curiosity in these young participants, and now the attention is focused on the outcomes the digital storytelling course is expected!

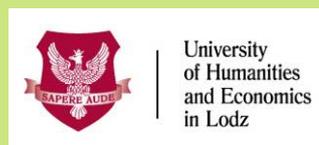
The Results of Training Needs Analysis

The research on training needs of teachers/trainers/educators was realized in all partner countries. The study was conducted through questionnaires sent to respondents. The results show a difference between the kinds of knowledge about storytelling of the respondents of different nationalities.

Despite the lack of knowledge about digital storytelling and the practical use of it in education, teachers and trainers from all questioned countries are interested in storytelling and digital storytelling in educational contexts.

The respondents emphasize their interests regarding the competences they would like to develop and later use in their teaching activities and processes. They distinguished such teacher's needs as improvement of complicity with students, creating a dialog with them and finding the right keys to obtain their real interest and engagement. Teachers want to reduce the distance from students by improving their creativity and becoming more "attractive".

Partners:



They are interested in learning how to develop competences related to (digital) storytelling among their students. Teachers think about their personal development, beside the scholastic competences, their future ability to move in the adult world and in the working environment.

The respondents also expressed their interests in this project, in its future activities, events and the products that will be produced during the project's lifespan, and they have also highlighted their interest in this study.

What's next?

We are currently working on the content, structure and graphic design of Digital Storytelling Course which will allow the target groups to learn the storytelling technique through a digital storytelling. The course content:

- Will include all visual and audio elements to make it more attractive for training.
- Will teach storytelling through storytelling.
- Will be available on the project website (its final version).
- Any user registered on the project website will be able to benefit from the course.

Also, soon we will create a short video promoting the T-story project and the main ideas of storytelling methods in an attractive visual form. The video will be available on our You Tube Channel (which we plan to create soon) where each user will be able to add comments.

We also organize the 2nd National Seminars on March 2014 to present the results of our project work as a beta version of Digital Storytelling Course and the Learning Handbook. We kindly invite you for these seminars!

The next international meeting will be on 10-11th of March 2014 in Italy.

We kindly invite you to follow T-Story website and fan-page on Facebook. You can find there a lot of interesting articles and videos regarding Storytelling and Digital Storytelling, for instance:



T-Story Storytelling Applied to Training

We recommend that you register on T-Story webpage and we invite you to “like” our Facebook page. This way you will be informed about the project news, deliverables, events and you will have free access to valuable articles and learning materials on Storytelling and Digital Storytelling (including the Learning Handbook and Digital Course).

Expect our next Newsletter in April next year – then the project works will be really advanced and we will be able to give you much more information on the project Handbook and Digital Course on Storytelling.

If you want to share some facts or projects about storytelling or digital storytelling, or have some questions please feel free to contact us!

The project coordinator: Advancis Business Services – a.barroca@advancis.pt

Please fill in a short [questionnaire](#) to help us to improve our newsletters in the future.

