

PALS

3rd Management Meeting

Rzeszow, Poland, 11th May 2009

Meeting notes

Present: DJO (OAKE)
Bill Fryer (S&B)
Alison McLean, Vicki Murray (S&B after the workshop ended)
Margaret & Chris (Poland)
Ieva (Latvia)
Ali (Turkey)

Meeting was held in parallel with second Poland workshop to reduce project costs.

Agenda aims and objectives

- To review activities so far
- To review Interim Progress report comments
- To review project financial situation
- To consider the status and development of PALS future activities and outputs
- To consider the structure and progress of the final valorization meeting in Turkey

Workshop 2 reports and partner activities

Latvia

Ieva reported that she had had prior discussion with Alison & Vicki as to what was required for the 1-day event. She also discussed issues with her cascade trainees. Their view was that workshop 2 should provide an opportunity to discuss issues arising from the cascade process and share experiences. It should be non formal and should emphasise inter trainer co-operation. Post the workshop attendees reported satisfaction with the event.

Following the workshop and with further discussion with cascade trainees Ieva developed the idea of a cascade/dissemination activity involving a travelling exhibition to other parts of Latvia. This took place on May 7th where she met with NGOs and discussed PALS and its development. Ideas and experiences were shared with the outcome that a community women's group will be developed in Tukums.

PALS provided lewa and cascade trainees with new skills in non formal engagement and confidence building capacities. Other benefits of PALS included networking skills, new opportunities for collective action , and sharing ideas.

Turkey

The second workshop in Turkey was held on May 1st, which created problems for cascade trainee attendees because many wanted to engage in traditional demonstrations and marches on that day. However, the strength of PALS was that most remained with the workshop for the full day period and clearly perceived benefit in doing so.

Positive reports emerged from the workshop, with the handouts/toolkit items being particularly mentioned. Also, during the workshop it became clear that the use of different ICT applications (email, Skype, Google, etc.) to encourage and maintain participation is an area that needs further exploration. Ali felt able to develop possible additional future /workshops in this area – an element of PALS sustainability.

As a result of Workshop 1 and the cascade process Ali has developed a social responsibility project (dealing with the Kurdish population - National funding). He has used PALS techniques to develop the project network.

The toolkit is perceived to be a very important output of PALS. Ali intends to publish and disseminate it in his in-house magazine that is distributed to teachers and students.

Poland

The second workshop was taking place at the same time as the management meeting, so no report was available.

Margaret reported that PALS has had a significant impact in developing opportunities for social training in the Rzesow area. Danmar is adapting some of the PALS toolkit aspects to their own in-housed student training activities. Thus Poland is transferring innovation to another client area – young people.

Overall it is clear that TOI for PALS has been to different client groups & applications as well as to different countries:

Poland:	Teachers & students
Turkey	Teachers & students; novel uses of ICT
Latvia:	New community groupings, especially women

Interim report discussion **Capacity building/support**

Agreed development of PALS in year 2 has been successful in creating more support for trainers. The cascade support meeting was well accepted and changes to the nature of Workshop 2 series has meant that more and better feedback can be obtained from cascades and also better interaction between partners. During Year 2 there has been more inter-partner contact that is outside of the formal meetings, eg using Skype.

Trainee feedback

Using Workshop 2 has meant that there has been more interaction with trainees/cascades who are able to add value to the Toolkit development.

Sustainability plans

Agreed that the PALS project has provided the impetus for some long-lasting cooperation between partners beyond the life of the project. Partners are already discussing collaboration on other Leonardo projects. The impact of PALS on different stakeholder groups with regards to community participation, and the impact on community developments already reported demonstrates the potential for sustainability of the project.

ICT usage

Agreed that we must make more use of the web portal for document storage and access, and interaction between partners and trainers.

External evaluation

Agreed for the need for evaluation but funds are limited. Agreed that more effort is required for internal evaluation but the prime aspect is impact evaluation.

Project finances

The financial situation of PALS partners was presented by OAKE. This demonstrates that although the project is 75% completed partner costs other than staffing are not yet in line with that proportion. Partners were asked to let OAKE know of any potential costs shortfall so that some virement between partners may be able to be made if appropriate (necessitation a further Significant Change).

The issue of subcontracting, and the need for individual subcontracting agreements, was further reinforced.

It was agreed that once partners had defined their potential cost profile, including subcontracting needs, a final significant Change application would be made.

PALS outputs

Project brochure

It was agreed to incorporate the project brochure with the Toolkit.

The brochure part of the toolkit would include discussion of:

- Leonardo and TOI
- The PALS project
- The nature of Action Learning
- Community participation principles
- Case study examples of good practice

The toolkit part would include:

- Facilitation skills
- Community engagement techniques
- Partnership working
- Project planning
- Training needs analysis
- Resource sheets dealing with:
 - Icebreakers
 - Interactive exercises
 - Community engagement techniques
 - Participation
 - Stakeholder analysis
 - Creating a business plan
 - Action planning
 - Workshop planning

Valorisation

Latvia: valorization activities undertaken subsequent to the second workshop. A bus was hired to take participants to other parts of Latvia to discuss the PALS approach to community participation

Turkey: Extensive article in political magazine

PALS valorization event (Turkey)

Agreed to have ½-3/4 day event with a theme of PALS - a view from government. The programme will include discussion of community cohesion issues from the Turkish perspective and from a European dimension. The PALS project - aims and outcomes - to be described. Contributions from all partners as to the impact of PALS in their localities. PALS outcomes including the launch of the toolkit in all languages.