

The development of a non-formal training programme for extra-institutional pre-school child care: the LiMErIC project



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The LiMErIC project - partners

- * **Tagesmütter Graz-Steiermark - Austria**
- * **ARIADNE - Switzerland**
- * **INIT Developments Ltd. - Germany**
- * **FormAzione Co&So Network - Italy**
- * **Soros Educational Center Foundation – Romania**
- * **Izmir Governorship - Turkey**
- * **The Dyscovery Centre - UK**



The LiMErIC project - background

- * Migration across Europe
- * The need for successful integration of migrant families in their new country
- * The role of early years education and care in fostering cultural inclusion
- * The language acquisition stage of child development and social participation
- * Lack of knowledge in early years child care about supporting language learning and intercultural competences

The LiMErIC project - aims

‘The Language Meets Intercultural Competencies (LiMErIC) project aimed to gauge the level of knowledge of language development and intercultural issues of those working in pre-school child care and to develop a blended learning training programme’

The LiMErIC project – Stage 1

Needs Analysis

- * Target group identified in each partner country
- * Needs analysis questionnaire developed to gauge the level of need and interest:
 - * Demographics
 - * The linguistic diversity of the target group and the children they care for
 - * Level of understanding of:
 - * Language development
 - * Multilingualism
 - * Language and communication difficulties
 - * Intercultural issues
 - * Past training and future training needs

The LiMErIC project – Stage 1

Needs Analysis

- * Results:
 - * Variability between the countries
 - * range of first languages spoken by the child minder
 - * overall number of languages spoken by the child minder
 - * first languages spoken by the children
 - * children who spoke a different language to the child minder
 - * Variability between the countries
 - * level of understanding of language development
 - * level of understanding about multilingualism
 - * level of understanding about language and communication difficulties
 - * level of understanding about intercultural issues

The LiMErIC project – Stage 1

Needs Analysis

* Results:

- * 154 questionnaires were completed by the target group
- * The majority had received formal or non-formal training in the past and considered it useful
- * A good level of interest expressed by child minders for further training on:
 - * language development
 - * multilingualism
 - * attitudes to multilingualism
 - * language and communication difficulties
 - * intercultural competencies

The LiMErIC project – Stage 2

Curriculum Design

- * Ten modules were developed:
 - * four e-learning units (200 minutes)
 - * six face-to-face units (300 minutes)
- * Module 1: Getting Started
 - * allows participants to introduce themselves to one another and to the trainers and also helped familiarise the group with the e-learning platform

The LiMErIC project – Stage 2

Curriculum Design

- * Module 2:
 - * an overview of the stages of typical development of language in children aged 0 – 6 years
 - * raises awareness of when language is delayed or disordered
 - * Discusses the development of more than one language
- * Module 3:
 - * discusses the role of professionals and the terminology used when working with a child whose language is developing atypically
 - * facilitated a practical understanding of ways to encourage language development in children

The LiMErIC project – Stage 2

Curriculum Design

- * Module 4:
 - * introduces the concept of multilingualism (childhood language development and multilingualism)
 - * aims to stimulate positive attitudes towards multilingualism and linguistic diversity
- * Module 5:
 - * promotes learning in early childhood

The LiMErIC project – Stage 2

Curriculum Design

- * Module 6:
 - * focusses on behaviours and attitudes which enable facilitation of intercultural dialogue
 - * allows the deconstruction of stereotypes
- * Module 7:
 - * focusses on childhood as the starting point for positive connections between different cultures in order to develop equal opportunities and reciprocal recognition

The LiMErIC project – Stage 2

Curriculum Design

- * **Module 8:**
 - * introduces the basics of communication and differences in communication
 - * suggests conflict management strategies and acquired an awareness of their own style of communication and conflict management
- * **Module 9:**
 - * suggests ways that childminders might promote an environment that includes parents in the learning process
 - * suggests strategies to support parents with little or no language skills (of the host country)
 - * fosters the need to maintain cultural identity through the child's use of their own language

The LiMErIC project – Stage 2

Curriculum Design

- * Module 10:
 - * provides an opportunity for the group to reflect on the content of the training programme and to celebrate the successful completion of the course

The LiMErIC project – Stage 3

Test Beds

- * Conducted by 4 partner countries:
 - * Austria
 - * Italy
 - * Switzerland
 - * Turkey

The LiMErIC project – Stage 3

Test Beds

- * Completed by 74 individuals (20 to 65 years old)



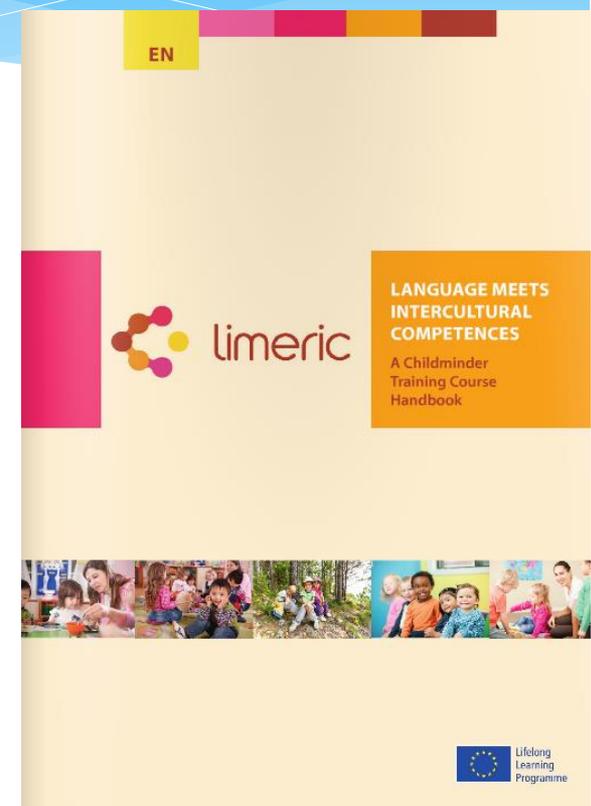
The LiMErIC project – Stage 3

Test Beds

- * Course evaluation:
 - * appropriate for the target group
 - * topics and the content of the course – good
 - * many would have liked the modules to have been longer to allow more time for discussion and reflection
 - * many would have liked more depth within each topic
 - * the e-learning sections proved to be quite challenging for most of the participants – and time consuming

The LiMErIC project – Stage 4

- * Production of the LiMErIC course handbook
 - * LiMErIC curriculum
 - * didactics and methodology
 - * notes for trainers
 - * resources required for activities during the face-to-face sessions
 - * additional materials
 - * reading materials, websites etc.



The LiMErIC project

- * LiMErIC Handbook:
 - * Available online <http://www.limeric.eu/>
- * The Dyscovery Centre:
 - * <http://dyscovery.southwales.ac.uk/>
- * Dr Marie Thomas:
 - * email: marie.thomas3@southwales.ac.uk

Thank you