



## Using Innovative Learning Strategies to Enhance Social Participation of Drop Outs

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The reform of the educational systems represents one of the biggest challenges in the Western world. The current systems are challenged not only on a didactical and organizational level, but also on an existential level. Education in the information society is a lifelong learning activity that goes beyond the capabilities of a majority of our educational institutions. A profound change is needed to be able to address the demands of today and tomorrow.

The urgency of the problem of early dropouts is revealed by the individual, social and economic consequences (EC 2011). ReAct - *reactivating teachers and learners* - has the aim of introducing a new didactic methodology in the educational system in order to re-motivate students and teachers.

The reAct project is based on 8 main principles: trust, challenge, autonomy, collaboration, ownership, creativity, relevance, ICT enabled.

Anticipated by a qualitative research on the needs of the lecturers and students of each country involved (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Netherlands, Austria) the project has the purpose of disseminating its own principles through the introduction of ICT (Information Communication Technology) in the regular/every day educational activities.

Content and methodologies produced in the project are tested in schools of different contexts and nature (public schools, training centers, private schools) for a period of one year. In this year two pilot projects are being executed.

The first pilot was to test the reactions of the students on the innovative learning activities in relation to their needs and expectations.

The second pilot focuses on the teachers and will assess the experiences of the teachers with the new approach.

The pilots are evaluated using a quality process, capable of monitoring the reactions and the feedbacks of the students and teachers.

The reAct project is meant to answer some basic questions in learning related to the target group of drop outs:

How does the reAct teaching approach change the attitude of learners and teachers with regard to learning?

What are the benefits and drawbacks of self-organized learning with regard to dropouts?

How do ICT tools and environments support the reAct learning approach?

ReAct is a multilateral project within the Key Activity 3 ICT action of the LLP program and will run till the end of 2012. The consortium comprises seven partners from six countries with extensive experience in education and training in Europe and detailed knowledge of the issues the project seeks to address.

The project partners are national and regional public administrations ((C. EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT (ES), CNO ESDICA (PT)), institutions related to the educational system (Delft



University of Technology (NL), TiBS (AT)) and vocational training centres (KEK KRONOS(GR), TRAINING 2000(IT), BFI TIROL(AT)).

The project intends to offer methodologies and tools which can be applied to different European contexts thus creating a transnational approach for dropouts. The project website ([www.reactproject.eu](http://www.reactproject.eu)) contains updated information about the different project phases.