

Patras: Good Practice Case Studies

Patras C4I training of trainers for Anti Rumour Agents

Summary Description:

The *Cultural Organization of the Municipality of Patras*, with the support of the *Municipal Development Corporation of the Municipality of Patras (ADEP)*, organised a training session entitled 'Training of Trainers for Anti- Rumour Agents' on 27th of November 2014, from 10:00am to 18:00pm in the former's premises. The training was performed by the Consultant of the Council of Europe, Mr. Daniel de Torres, in English with simultaneous translation

Specific Goal and Target:

The main objectives of training anti rumour agents was to build a network of partners capable of dealing with stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination and rumours against immigrants and to influence the people for this purpose.

Actions, Timescales and Resources:

The Training saw broad participation, building on a commitment from authorities and public or private entities including the Municipality of Patras, The University of Patras and the Law Association. Representatives came from immigrant communities, the Police, private companies, NGOs, the international organisation of migration, local theatres, school teachers and university professors.

Many of them are already trainers in their organisations; and some are teachers in public schools and Universities – critical to further dissemination of the skills.



We asked participants to work in pairs, using a role play approach: One says a rumour and the other has to respond and disagree but not in a negative or aggressive manner way.

Another action was some people to defend a rumour and others try to dismantle it. We use the Barcelona Project practical guide for anti-rumour agents; also we have used some practical examples from other cities.

They were provided with resources to aid further dissemination comprising: The Practical guide for anti-rumour agents; the Barcelona anti-rumours strategy PowerPoint presentation; A methodology for training of trainers for anti-rumour agents; The Patras rumour – antirumour file; some video and leaflets.

Challenges Encountered:

One challenge was to mobilise the diverse partners.

Outputs and Outcomes

A survey was carried out at the completion of training, and the feedback was positive. Comments included: *“I was introduced to tools and tips that are applicable in everyday life situations concerning rumours”*; *“It was inspiring and motivating”*; *“Giving me tools contributing in every form of interaction and new knowledge on communication strategies”*; *“There are many different and creative ways to pass the idea to the people.”*

They were also encouraged to network. All participants shared their emails and telephone numbers, and they are contacted when further C4I activities are planned; and we keep in email communication with them to exchange views and offer support for their plans. Some also communicate among themselves; and a few are organising their own anti-rumour activities. For instance, the University has asked the Atroposhlep (who led the Anti-Rumour Theatre work) to provide training for their students for the spring semester.

There has already been further training provided to the lawyers among Municipal staff, and further training sessions are planned. It is hoped that there will be ongoing and further impact in the Community through the involvement of different entities of city of Patras.

Learning along the way:

A lesson emerging is that trainers should not explain directly the definition of the concepts, so that participants must themselves make the effort to think about their meaning and differences. Fun and inspirational videos are very important in order to achieve good results. Dialogue is also very important but must be in the right time and place and demonstrate respect for those involved.