Course outline

Contents

1. Course outline

The proposed week-long course aims to disseminate the use of the VITAL project results to the wider community of educators. The proposed plan is intended to be used by the partners of the consortium after the official funding period of the project has ended. The course plan can be integrated into the existing internal practice and offered by the partners to the wider community in the form of an in-service training course for existing and aspiring staff.

2. Course objectives

This in-service training course is aimed at teachers, tutors, trainers, curriculum managers, support staff and those who are already working in schools and educational centres/services. It's main objective is to encourage the use of visuals in teaching and learning and expand the community of teachers who can benefit from each other's experience at European level.

In particular, the main aims of the course are to:

- familiare participants with the VITAL project and methodology
- develop a greater understanding of using visuals in teaching and learning
- share good practice
- provide participants with an opportunity to work collaboratively in developing their own teaching materials
- develop knowledge and understanding within a rich and intercultural context
- develop evaluative models/models of reflection through observation of best practice.

3. Course methodology

The course methodology is designed to encourage participation, sharing of good practice and reflection of teaching methodologies applied in the classroom and the use of visuals for supporting learning and teaching.

Throughout the week, the course will encourage creative teaching approaches and develop participants' knowledge and understanding on how to engage learners in the use of visuals. This will be achieved through a variety of instructional teaching sessions, workshops, peer reviews, collaborative learning and evaluation.

Through an evaluative and reflective approach, participants will be tasked with developing new teaching methods and materials ready to put into practice upon their return home.

These new materials will also be shared with the wider educational community through the VITAL website.

4. Course preparation

Through an online secure blogging site, participants will be encouraged to communicate and begin sharing professional experiences and materials. The site will also be used to share information and reading materials before the commencement of the course.

Participants will be tasked with the completion of a pre-course questionnaire, which aims to gather information about their professional competences and their expectations of the course. In addition, pre-course reading materials will be sent to individuals prior to the course.

Participants are expected to familiarise themselves with the VITAL website and its content.

Each participant will be tasked with selecting an existing example of good practice from their setting to bring to the course and share with others.

5. Follow up

Participants will be encouraged to continue networking upon their return home through the use of the blogging site which will remain open for the continuation of sharing of teaching and teaching materials.

6. Proposed content of training

Each partner will devise a programme of activities around the main key general common areas of:

1. Text and Images

2. Storytelling

3. Use of comics and filmmaking

4.The world around us: sounds and colours outdoors

5. Develop new resources

During the course of the programme, key results, such as the training package from the project, will be used as a vehicle for delivery of the key areas identified above.

In particular, each section of the training package should be used as the basis for the training content.

The training package contains theory, infomative sections and practical activities to develop the content of each of the 4 thematic areas.

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7. Proposed certification of attendance

We propose that the training activities are validated using:

- A Certificate of attendance

  and/or

- Europass mobility certificate