

Training Course
Lefkas
12-22 June

SOLIDARITY TRACKS



www.tamonopatia.org

Magazin





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Introduction

It is difficult to summarize what the Training course in Lefkas meant for us. We were 34 participants coming from 15 different countries. We had different profiles, background, cultures and previous knowledge but somehow we managed to learn and get the best from this experience. They were very fruitful days, we shared our knowledge with each other, we created our own e-learning platform and we learnt how to use e-learning in order to educate in non formal field. And of course, we also had lot of fun! This magazine tries to show both parts of the project: what we worked and what we enjoyed. In other words it is a reflection of the non visible part of the project: not only the final result but also the process of our evolution.

Welcome to E-learning, behind the scene.

Sorry, what is your name?

We were a big group, a veeery big group and was not easy to learn so many names. That's why we needed some first activities to have the first contact and get to know each other.

As a new group, we did not know anyone's name in the beginning. In order for us to get to know each other, we had several games.

The first game was about telling our names and an adjective that describes us with the condition that it had to start with the same letter as our name. Then, we joined a circle and sequentially we were supposed to tell the previous participants' name and their adjective.

It was getting tough as it reached the last participant who repeated the names of the whole group.

For the next game we needed a curtain. That is because the group was split in two and the idea was to separate them with the curtain and having a member of each team approaching the curtain (so they would not see each other's). Then the curtain would be dropped and players should say immediately the name of

the player of the other team. The last one to say the name (or that did not know the name at all) would join the opposite side. The group that would be able to get the most of the players won.

In order to remember each other's faces a picture game was organized. The participants were divided in two groups, this time facing each other in two rows. One side was going to draw and the other just to be a model. There was a timer for a few seconds so that painters would move a step to the side to continue drawing another model. Then we made the same but we changed the rows so that now the painters were models and the models were painters. In the end each participant would have a portrait of himself drawn by the several drawers from the opposite side. The idea was to get a recognizable portrait in the end.



Working time

We had different objectives to achieve during the Training Course and the activities for those ten days were thought in order we can reach them. We can divide the activities in four stages that help us to get to the final result.

Objectives

1

To allow youth workers from different European countries, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, to share their experiences and acquire skills in non-formal education field by using newest technologies in order to play a crucial role in educating young people more easy and efficient.

2

To awareness participants (youth leaders and youth workers) to the opportunities and challenges of e-learning, and to give them a better understanding of the role that they can play in the future non-formal education, in their professional lives and in their careers.

3

To develop new skills and competences of the youth workers and youth leaders, by using modern learning and teaching online technologies in order to educate young people.

4

To develop example of online course using well-known web application like "Moodle" and its various learning modules.

5

To develop their own e-learning platforms for the purposes of their own youth projects.

6

To develop cooperation with our European partners, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus for the education of youth on an on-line platform.



- Sharing experiences and good practices

- Workshops and group dynamics for learning in non formal field

- Presentation of moodle platform

- Put all the theory into practice

Activities summary



During the ten days of seminar, we had many good and different activities that were planned with the idea of reaching our objectives as group. At the beginning, we started by sharing our previous knowledge. Each country presented the implementation of e-learning on their area and organization. Also, they shared examples from their countries of good practices on the topic.

After these first activities, we somehow pictured how e-learning is used in Europe. Next part of our working plan was to go deep in non-formal education and to understand and figure out different ways of educational projects that can be developed through e-learning strategies. In one of the workshops of this part of the training, we were asked to prepare a theater (role play) to represent situations where it is shown the differences between these types of learning process. We were divided in four groups, the four topics were formal education for children, formal education for adults, non formal education for children and non formal education for adults. The role play was a good method for us to realize about the differences between those topics, what is very important to plan our future training courses. After we played these theaters, we had a debate about the topics and about each role play.

Another activity was about the difference bet-

ween Online and offline education. We were split in 3 groups. One group was the committee, composed by 5 members. The rest of us were divided in two groups with equal number of participants. The task was to think a plan a training course about sustainable development but one group had to do it through offline education methods and the other one, using online methods. The aim was to present the advantages and disadvantages of both methods. Through speeches and argumentations, we realized about the pros and cons of each possibility and it was created a very interesting debate that allowed us to get an important conclusion: both are valid methods of educations that can be combined.

Next workshop was a working group activity about the definitions of different types of learning: e-learning, online learning, distance learning, synchronous and asynchronous distance learning, m-learning ("mobile learning") and blended or Hybrid learning. Six people received the definitions and had to go to the six groups that were created to explain, one by one, each type of learning. After that, the entire group shared the impressions, what we learnt during the activity and put in common all the definitions. This activity is based on the social constructivism which says that the knowledge and the learning process happen thanks to the group cooperation. Continuing

Activities summary



with the social constructivism, the trainer projected a video of the expert Sugatra Mitra about his project "the hole in the wall" where he explains his experiments to understand how kids teach themselves. After the video, the group had a debate and put in common their impressions about the project of Sugatra Mitra.

As last activity of this part of our training, we had to think about a hypothetical training course. The topic was about sustainable development and based in Lefkas. We had to create a story or a tale about the seminar that shows the positive and negative characteristics that one training course and a trainer (or educator) should have. Once we had the story written, we had to illustrate the story with draws and present to the whole group.

And, finally, it was the time to start with the moodle platform. Our trainer, Sidik, is an expert in moodle and e-learning platforms. He introduced and guided us through the platform. First, we learnt how to install moodle on the server. In order to make it easier and avoid the problems with Internet connec-

tion, they used the computers as sever so they were working as localhost. After, we learnt how to configure and understand many of the setting options the platform offers. Once we knew how to work and what can be done in moodle, we started to create our own platform. We were divided in five groups and each group decided a topic for a possible course on the platform. We had to make an implementation plan and think about the topic, activities, methods, content, objectives...

At the end, we had a final presentation where we could see our evolution and our results.







Learning about cultures

Intercultural night

Crosscultural cohesion gathers all the people in one room where we discovered another culture with its beauties and originality



On June 13, 2014, we had an intercultural evening in the museum of the city of Lefkas. As participants, we came from 15 countries from Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus. Besides the participants, there were also local people who came to experience and enjoy the intercultural atmosphere and sharing of short presentations about their countries aiming to inform the audience about the history, culture and popular places they do have.

Thus, the journey started from South Caucasus: Armenia and Georgia. The Armenian participants presented and treated the guests their national food and drinks, like, Armenian wine, dried fruit, basturma and chocolate. The Caucasian atmosphere would be incomplete without Georgian sulguni, tklapi, churchkhela, jonkoli and cognac which made an irreplaceable part of the intercultural feast.

Belarus was the next culture to explore. Belarusian participants engaged and entertained the international crowd by teaching them how to sing a Belarusian folk song Касіу Ясь канюшину ("Kasiu Jasj kanjushynu"), after which they were playing a great game called "Birds & nests", which they usually play at Ivana Kupala holiday.

It was followed by a presentation about Ukraine. Ukrainian participants demonstrated and treated their traditional clothes, alcohol and music and taught all participants how to dance folk dances. The next destination was Latvia- a former Soviet republic, famous by its green untouched forests, nice sand beaches, where you may find a treasure-Bernstein from the sea. The Latvian participants made a nice on-line presentation and the guests tried the traditional Latvian food-snack with amazing grey bread and cheese and famous "Riga" balsam with flavour of different berries. After the presentation of cold Baltic, but warm and hospitable inside Latvia we are moving to the open hand of hot and passion Spain. Hola amigos!!! We are ready to invite you to the party with the bits of Spanish castanets, sounds of Spanish guitar and open hearted people! We'll never forget the taste of sangria and "Sevillanas" dance with the feeling of passion Spanish nights, smiling people and spirit of adventure.

Besides the already well-known typical sausages called Würstel, sweets like Mannerschnitten and Mozart-Chocolate-Liquors, Austrians presented also some hand-made chocolate produced in her home-town Friesach that is elaborated 100% with

local milk and ingredients from the region. The “bestseller“ of the evening was the freshly made Kernöl creamcheese. France delighted us with cambrais, mint and caramel sweets then bretzels which are an alsacian speciality looking like embraced arms covered with salt sprinkles. One interesting anecdote about this food: George Bush Junior almost suffocated eating one of those little rebels!

Romania focused its attention on the historical religion Transylvania. There could be tasted bacon, smoke cheese, rum chocolate and a kind of magical drink, it is called pálinka.

The next stop was in Greece, where the best-known drink Ouzo was served. People usually drink it with a little water and some ice cube. We tasted it, and we were not disappointed with it.

Last but not least, we are in front of the table of an amazing country with open-minded and hospitable people- the Republic of Moldova. So,

what can we see? Of course, Moldovan traditional food like cheese called brinza, smoked meat, the famous wine and the exquisite Bucuria chocolates that people enjoyed tasting pieces by pieces. And the dance- oh, yeah, the folk dance that fantastically animated the atmosphere... The participants were so excited; we really had a PERFECT evening!



The trip: day and night

Apart of sharing the different cultures of each country, we wanted to know much better the place where the training course was taking place. Lefkada Island is a beautiful place that we wanted to explore. So, it was organized two boat trips that took us around different parts of Ionian Island.

In the morning, we were in a boat and we visit amazing places like Porto Katsiki, Ithaca or Kefalonia. During the night, we became pirates and, with our pirate boat, we went to Laka beach where we had a great night in an isolated beach.



Behind the scenes... some stories

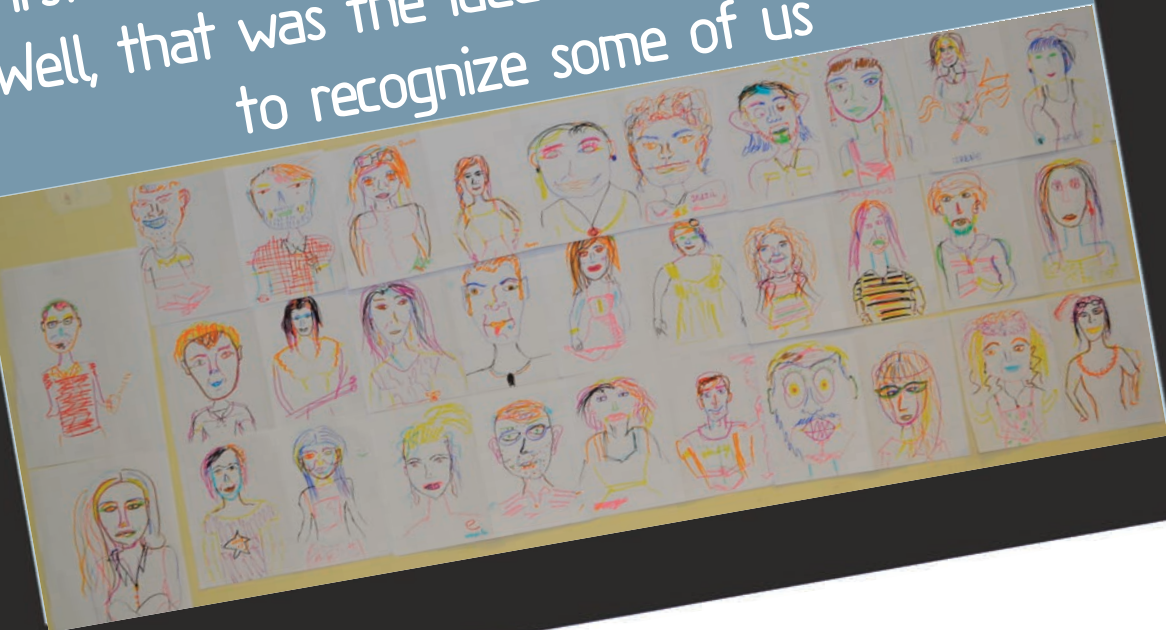
Martina and Reme had birthday and we celebrated with parties, dances and cakes!



We had several energizers. The one we all remember was handle by Alex and his funky chicken



First day of seminar, we draw our portraits.
Well, that was the idea because it was hard
to recognize some of us



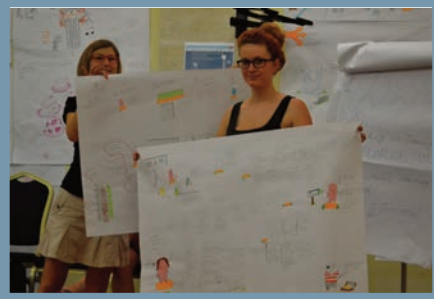
We established rules
and funny punish-
ments for the
rule breakers



We visited the eco-
house project of
our host,
Solidarity Tracks



Our training in cartoon



The best ideas come to my mind when... *I see things I'm interested in and want to have them too.*

I am the happiest when... *someone likes my pictures and ask me, if I can draw something for him or her*

I love... *my life, because I have everything I ever wanted. I have a nice family, I work with creative people and all my friends just make me happy.*

The craziest thing I've ever done is... *to travel alone to America without knowing anybody.*

The best place I have ever been is... *Grand Canyon, America.*

I couldn't expect that Greece... *Is such a beautiful place, where most of the people are really happy without having much.*

Teresa was our drawer "on air". At the same time we worked, she was putting in pictures our outputs and activities. Original and helpful way to follow our working process!

How old are you? Where do you study? I am 21, I study in Aachen, Germany

- **When and what was your first painting or drawing?** My first painting was a picture of my family when I was 4.

- **What is your favorite thing to paint or create?** I love to create Tattoo designs or draw realistic things.

- **Why did you choose graphic design?** I choose Graphic design because I love to be creative.

- **How did you get an idea to make a picture diary of the project?** We thought it is easier to understand drawings than listen to somebody who is talking for few hours. So its easier to remind pictures and that's why I'm doing the diary like this

- **Did you think about staying in Greece for long time?** No, I stayed here now for 5 weeks and the only time I want to spend here is for vacation

- **Could share some tips for those who want to draw as well as you?** I think everybody can draw like this. In my drawings are not much details and it's easy to draw the people. In the internet are also some Tutorials that show how easy it can be to draw like I do.

Interviews with participants

At the end of a training course we asked participants to answer 5 questions. Here some information that some participants shared with us:

Sona, Armenia



What were your expectations before you come here and what are your “take aways”?

I expected to get experience in non-formal style of education, and I got it. But I also expected to go deeper into e-learning educational platforms, but, unfortunately, my biggest takeaway will be the knowledge/skill how to install Moodle (maybe because I had previous experience connected with Moodle)

What is your main contribution to this course?
I hope that I could somehow share my knowledge about e-learning in general, and also Moodle specifically. I hope that the other participants learnt something about Armenians, their country and culture

List highlights and drawbacks of the course.

The biggest highlight is that many of our peers were professionals in their fields and we could learn a lot from them. Besides, we spend 10 wonderful days in Greece. The drawback, in my opinion, was that the training could have been more organized and more professional experience

What are the connecting points of your culture and cultures that represented by the course participants?

The training course was in the center for all of us. We also had many things in common. For example, Armenia and Georgia share some cultural aspects (e.g. food).

Describe your experience about Greece in 3 words.

Warm, paradise, water

Pedro, Portugal



What were your expectations before you come here and what are your “take aways”?

My biggest expectation was related to Moodle

usage. My take away is, in fact, being able to use the moodle, having learned a lot about this tool.

What is your main contribution to this course?
My IT skills, being in a good mood.

List highlights and drawbacks of the course.

Got good knowledge of configuring and creating contents in moodle; I think there was too little time for moodle comparing to all the other activities that were done.

What are the connecting points of your culture and cultures that represented by the course participants?

A lot of common points.

Describe your experience about Greece in 3 words.

Beaches, Travelling, Fun.

Alex, Moldova



What were your expectations before you come here and what are your “take aways”?

I was expecting to find out new things and I learned about a new platform and how to organize a project using non-formal education.

What is your main contribution to this course?

I brought my ideas, energizers and helping in creating a new project using moodle

List highlights and drawbacks of the course.

The trip and the night parties and the practical course using moodle.

What are the connecting points of your culture and cultures that represented by the course participants?

Some language similarities, some behaviors and some ways of thinking.

Describe your experience about Greece in 3 words.

Kalimera, Efcharisto, Levkada.

Marta, Ukraine



What were your expectations before you come here and what are your “take aways”?

My expectations were first of all to get some skills from different teachers from another countries, and also to learn what is e-learning, because in Ukraine it's not so common to use

it. I got what I expected.

What is your main contribution to this course?

I had a lot of ideas and thoughts and I shared it with other participants.

List highlights and drawbacks of the course.

It was interesting, I learned a lot. The highlight for me was exchanging experience.

What are the connecting points of your culture and cultures that represented by the course participants?

I can talk about connection between the ukrainian and greek drivers, all of them braking the rules and parking at the zebra.

Describe your experience about Greece in 3 words.

Three words are not enough to express all feelings about Greece. It's a beautiful country, with good climat. I'm just excited about the mountains, they are just amazing. Also the streets of Levkada and other Ionian islands are so nice!.

Ioanna, Greece



What were your expectations before you come here and what are your “take aways”?

Learn a little bit more about technology possibilities and that's what I get.

What is your main contribution to this course?

Imagination.

What are the connecting points of your culture and cultures that represented by the course participants?

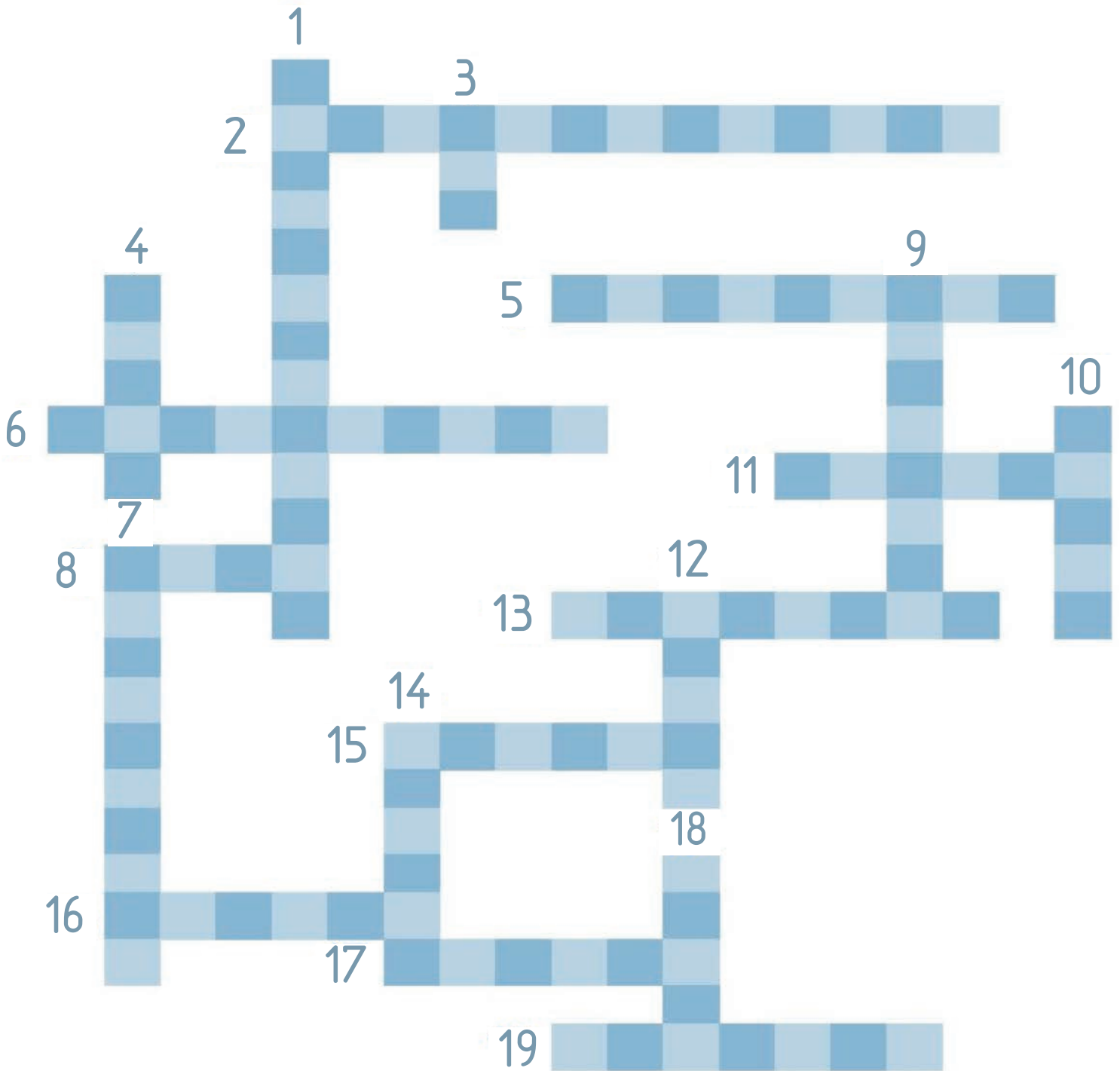
Hunger for a better educational system

Describe your experience about Greece in 3 words.

My country...what can I say?

Crosswords

Let's play a bit! These nineteen words are specific vocabulary of the topic of our training. In the next page you have their meaning. Try to solve our crosswords!

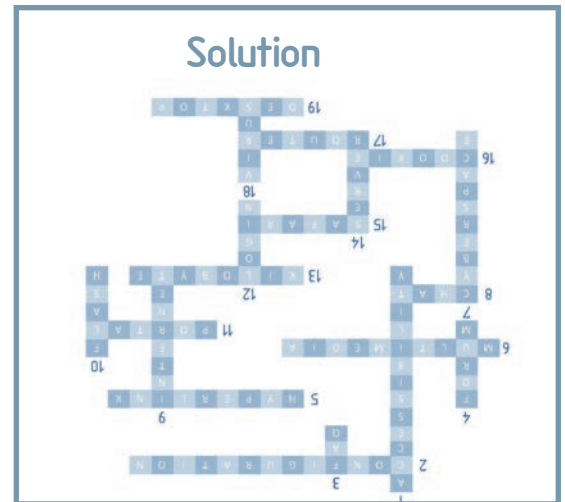


Vertical

1. A type of technology that allows people with disabilities ranging from visual problems to cognitive impairments to use the Internet.
3. An acronym that stands for “frequently asked questions”. Basically a list of questions that users ask often which provide a means of finding the answer quickly.
4. Online service that allows registered users to post questions and responses to other posted questions. Online services and bulletin board services (BBS’s) provide a variety of forums, in which participants with common interests can exchange open messages. Forums are sometimes called newsgroups (in the Internet world) or conferences.
7. It is a term used to describe the range of sources that exists on the Internet.
9. It is a collection of interconnected computers that deliver information through TCP/IP protocols that evolved back in the late 1960s and 1970s. It was originally developed for the United States Department of Defense.
10. Small program that plugs in to your browser allowing for media-rich interaction, animation, sound, and video integration over the Web.
12. A way for you to type your username and password to gain access to restricted information or websites.
14. Never ending loop to send information to a client that requests it. There are different types of it, each with their own specific task.
18. A malicious piece of code that runs on a user’s computer that control systems on the machine and sometimes can make the machine inoperable and compromises the security of the machine.

Horizontal

2. The setup of an individual computer which consists of hardware and software.
5. An element in an electronic document that links to another place in the same document or to an entirely different document. Typically, you click on it to follow the link.
6. The interactive use of text, graphics and colors to display a concept. It could be a Power-Point slide show or a complex interactive animation.
8. A discussion that occurs online when all users are logged in at the same time. It is also defined as a form of online communication.
11. A marketing term used to describe a website that is intended to be the first place people see when accessing the web. it has a hierarchy of websites and a search engine.
13. 1,024 bytes.
15. Web browser developed by Apple Macintosh.
16. Piece of information that is stored on a user’s hard drive that is used by web servers to personalize your online experience. It usually stores your registration information from various web sites and is commonly used in the online marketplace to save your preferences.
17. A piece of hardware that accepts physical connections from other networks or computers that routes information (or packets) to the intended location.
19. See graphical user interface.



NGO's partners

France
Portugal
Latvia
Spain
Italy

Slovenia
Romania
Austria
Czech Republic
Belarus

Moldova

Georgia

Armenia

Ukraine
Greece

Pistes Solidaires

Rato - Associação para a Divulgação Cultural e Científica
Express yourself

Grupo de Desarrollo rural Valle del Guadalhorce
Work in Progress

Associazione Diagonal Italia
Youth Centre Medvode

Asociatia de Tineri din Ardeal

Gain&sustain:Europe

Cultura Africa, o.s.

League of Youth Voluntary Service

Office for Initiatives Promotion

International Charitable Organization UNIHHELP

"MilleniUM" Training and Development Institute

Association of International Volunteering from Moldova

Asociatia pentru Sustinerea Initiativelor Studentilor si Tinerilor

Georgian Youth for Europe

Regional Association of Youth Initiatives

SIQA - Georgian Association of Educational Initiatives

Youth Initiative Centre

Stepanavan Youth Center

Mosaica

Solidarity Tracks Organisation

Kinisi Ethelonton Service Civil International-Hellas

Non formal group of Thasos "forward it"



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