

SPECIAL EDITION – INSIGHTS FROM THE FINAL CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER June 2019 No.4

Welcome

STORYTELLER PROJECT

A project dedicated to the very core of working with stories. Towards working with vulnerable communities within a professional curriculum.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Insights and conclusions - closing activities and final conference.

**THE STORYTELLER PROJECT
TEAM**



Partnership consortium information available at: <http://learnstorytelling.eu/>



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

FINAL CONFERENCE IN LINZ, 6TH OF JUNE 2019

Dear StoryTeller friends,

STORYTELLER project has reached its peak and the consortium is finalizing all its activities. As one of the highlights of our last couple of months till the end of August 2019, the partners have joined forces on a very special occasion – Final conference, taking place at our Austrian partner's BBRZ premises in Linz.

The results of common work throughout the last 3 years have been shared, tested and discussed with the public. This news issue will provide you with all information about the main points addressed in the conference.

Your StoryTeller team

“WHY STORIES ARE SO IMPORTANT”

It was a warm and sunny day, that manifested itself into a promising and very positive oriented final exchange of all vital data about the professional work done in the past 3 year of our cooperation in the StoryTeller project.



After the official registration and opening speeches from BBRZ team members, Mr. Peter Frühmann, Ms Bernadett Pfarl – Riegler and Ms Ingrid Pammer opened the conference with an introduction dialogue between hosts and participants.

The central questions to open a dialogue with participants were “**Why stories**” and “**What do we think stories are here for, what are their functions?**”

After a hesitant start all the important functions and/or objectives of stories – the good ones and the ‘dark’ ones - passed in revue. To name only a few: information, knowledge transfer, engagement, entertainment, consolation, cohesion, imagination, inspiration, memory retention, and also fright, hate, discrimination, anger, anxiety...



The audience concluded that the domain ‘story’ is vast and comprehensive, and that objectives can also be interpreted as intentions. With which intentions are stories told? We can always ask questions to stories...

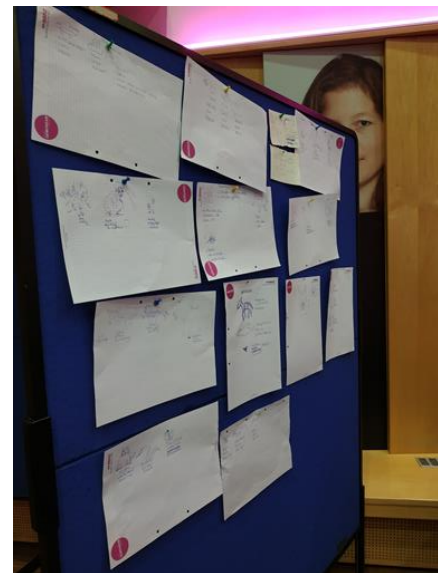


After the welcome activity the project was presented by the lead partner OZARA d.o.o. The audience got the chance to know all outputs developed throughout the last 3 years and was invited to download the published material for a more thorough insights, reading in checking how the OER Platform could be used for further personal learning either individually or in a team.

After the presentation of the project objectives we invited the participants into two interactive workshops, 'Identity' (*note: Peter and Bernadett*) and 'Changing perspectives' (*note: Ingrid*).

In the identity workshops drawing animals and assigning characteristics to them led into an interesting conversation on e.g. desired identity, image, subjective identity, group identities and the (sometimes affirming, sometimes inhibiting, sometimes coercive) stories attached to all.

The fact that (parts of) our identity / identities are shared with others (and create shared (hi)stories) became clearer. The language and words used, the voice and the voice inflection when expressing oneself are also important, as are the (vivid) descriptions of elements in a story. The group concluded that it was surprisingly eye-opening, and participants showed interest in the effects of working with stories and thus in the course curriculum.



In the plenary session after the break (moderated by Ingrid Pammer, BBRZ) Compendium research was highlighted by Luigi Frezza (Uniposms), the content (and why) of the curriculum units by Peter Frühmann (Storybag), Betty McNerlin (CERES) explained the qualification development process and development of the assessment criteria for the curriculum units. The project's practical activities of implementation and testing phase as well as training and insights into organisational lessons learned was presented by Moira Kobše (OZARA d.o.o.).

We have addressed the core of our efforts towards our curriculum to become a recognized and formalized new profession and took the opportunity to include feedback and insights from the public as well and have found a way to develop a conversation towards the sustainability of project results after its lifetime.

We can conclude that the conference managed to create new vistas for the participating professionals and if we look at the feedback, there is quite a bit of enthusiasm to follow a course 'Working with stories' with enough material and inviting OER Platform to serve all groups on a tailor-made basis.

