

ECML Project C.7 - TrainEd

Training Teacher Educators

National Training Event – Mentoring: Exploring the Possibilities Thessaloniki, 17 September 2005

Report

The fourth National Training Event for the TrainEd project took place in Greece, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece, on 17 September 2005. The one-day workshop was organised locally by Dr. Areti-Maria Sougari, in cooperation with Dr. Marina Mattheoudakis, both of the School of English of the Aristotle University. The workshop was co-facilitated by the two local organisers and Dr. Gabriela Matei, of EduPlus Consulting, Timisoara, Romania, coordinator of the TrainEd project for the European Centre for Modern Languages, Graz.

The workshop was opened by Professor Angeliki Psaltou-Joycey, Head of the School of English. The 22 participants were all mentors who cooperate with the local organisers for the supervision of the teaching practice of pre-service teachers, both in primary and in secondary schools in Thessaloniki.

Our objectives for the workshop were:

- To familiarize participants with the TrainEd project and the ECML range of activities and resources;
- To pilot trainer training materials developed by the project team;
- To raise participants' awareness of mentoring and supervision styles, as well as of the complexity of observation and feedback, especially in mentoring;
- To provide participants with training and mentoring skills and techniques, in particular facilitation, observation and feedback.

The structure of the one-day workshop was the following:

9:00 – 9:15	Registration
9:15 – 9:45	Welcoming the participants Presentation of the TrainEd Project Objectives of the workshop
9:45 – 11:00	Supervision styles in mentoring
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:45	Observation skills for mentors
12:45 – 13:15	Lunch break
13:15 – 14:45	Facilitation skills
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee break

15:00 – 16:15	Giving and receiving feedback
16:15 – 16:30	Feedback session

We started with a presentation of the European Centre for Modern Languages, Graz, its projects, activities and website, and continued with a presentation of the TrainEd project. The workshop continued with interactive presentations, as well as tasks for participants, pair and group activities, all of them exploring the basic skills of mentoring. The presentations and activities, as well as the TrainEd materials, were well received by the participants, who cooperated fully with the facilitators and with one another.

Participants mentioned in their feedback questionnaires that:

1. they took away from the workshop: a different perspective on the role of a mentor and on observing – facilitating student teachers; knowledge and tips on becoming a better mentor; or, in the words of one participant, “now that my role as a mentor is clearer to me, I feel more confident and prepared to take up this role.”
2. they were surprised by their “own ignorance about what a mentor is”, but also by “the work that is done all over Europe with the ECML”, by “how very interested all teachers were in learning more about mentoring“ and also by “the vivid and sensitive way the presentations were given as well as the written material”.
3. they would welcome more such training events, and they thanked the organisers for all their work.

The feedback we received from participants at the end of the training day made us as facilitators confident that we achieved the outcomes we expected from the workshop: participants mentioned that they left the workshops with a raised awareness of not only what training and mentoring involve, but also of the importance of developing their own competence. The participants also appreciated the usefulness of the TrainEd project work and of the TrainEd Kit not only for teacher trainers, but also for mentors.