



# Final Report on National Meetings

## Project ENTITLE Libraries Lifelong Learning

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Central Public Library of Veria, Greece

**December 2009**

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## 1. Introduction

ENTITLE (Europe's New libraries Together In Transversal Learning Environments) (<http://www.entitlelll.eu/eng>) is a multilateral project under LLP KA4 *Dissemination and Exploitation of Results*, designed to support and extend the progress made to date by Europe's public libraries in supporting learning for all age groups and sections of society, by disseminating, consolidating and enhancing the work of key existing networks, projects and initiatives in this area.

The project consisted of 8 Work Packages (WP). The WP5 involved the organization of National Meetings. Each of the 12 participating countries organised a national meeting in order to discuss and disseminate the results emerging from ENTITLE including mainly the **guidelines**, recommendations and **impact assessment framework** with a view to their promotion and adoption. The Guidelines highlight effective policy provisions for public libraries in lifelong learning, drawing attention and linking to established and emerging good practice in the provision of services for learning. The Guidelines can be found at <http://www.entitlelll.eu/eng/Guidelines-Recs>. The Impact Assessment Framework (<http://www.entitlelll.eu/eng/Assessment-Framework>) aims to provide a common, validated means of collecting and presenting data on the impact of library's learning provision on learners.

A common evaluation tool was designed as a means of evaluating the National Meetings. The questionnaire was distributed to all attendees of each national meeting (Appendix 1), thus providing a common platform for combining the evaluation results. Based on this

questionnaire each country partner produced a report on their meeting. Individual country reports can be located at <http://www.entitlell.eu/eng/Partners-Area/Deliverables/WP-5-National-Meetings/National-Meeting-Reports>. This report aims to draw an overall picture of the agenda of National meetings and their evaluation.

## **2. Agenda of National meetings**

National meetings provided the grounds for raising a discussion on the legislative issues involved in LLL as well as the national policy and its implementation, in each country. Furthermore in all national meetings, presentations of the Guidelines and the Impact Assessment Framework, illustrated in many cases with examples drawn either from their country or other partners, were made. In order to summarise the content and promote exchange of opinions, each meeting was followed by a round table discussion. In most cases this discussion identified possible barriers in the smooth implementation of LLL by libraries.

Factors that hinder the realisation and implementation of LLL projects were:

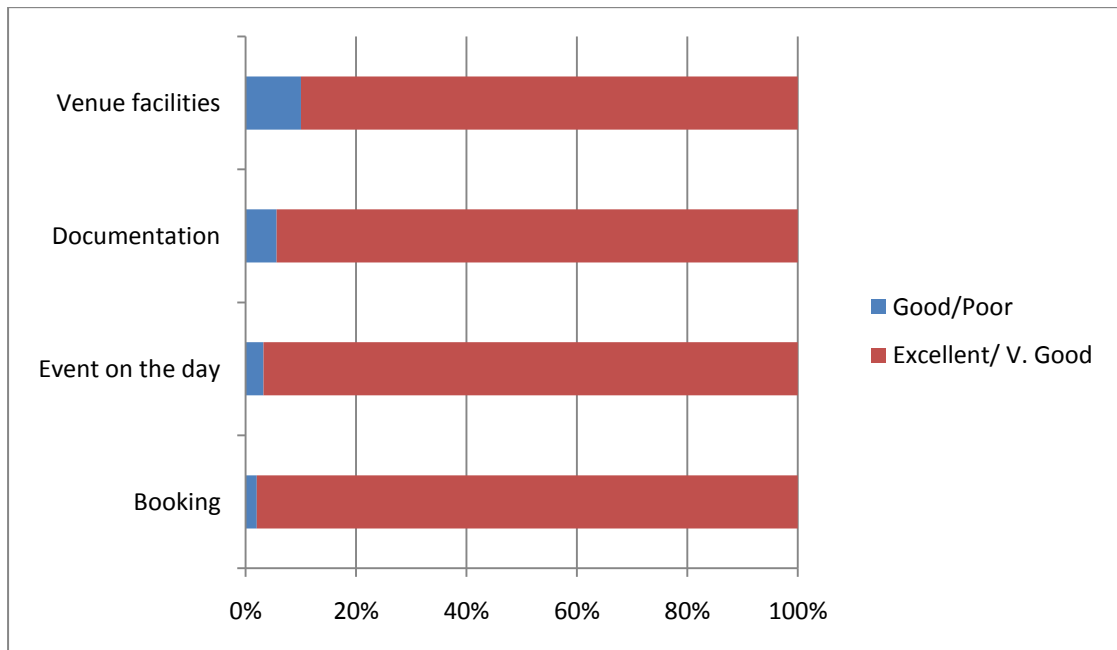
- Lack of financial support
- Sustainability of quality services following the end of a project
- Fear of the administrative burden involved in the realisation of EU projects due to lack of knowledge and human resources
- Difficulty in identifying possible partners
- Lack of human resources
- Lack of national policy on LLL in many instances
- Lack of active political and financial support for libraries involved in LLL

### **3. Evaluation**

The questionnaire consisted of three sections. The first aimed to gather information regarding the organisation of the event, the second involved the content of the event and the third contained open ended questions concerning the strengths and weaknesses of the event. The attendance of librarians and other stakeholders averaged about 100 people in each meeting.

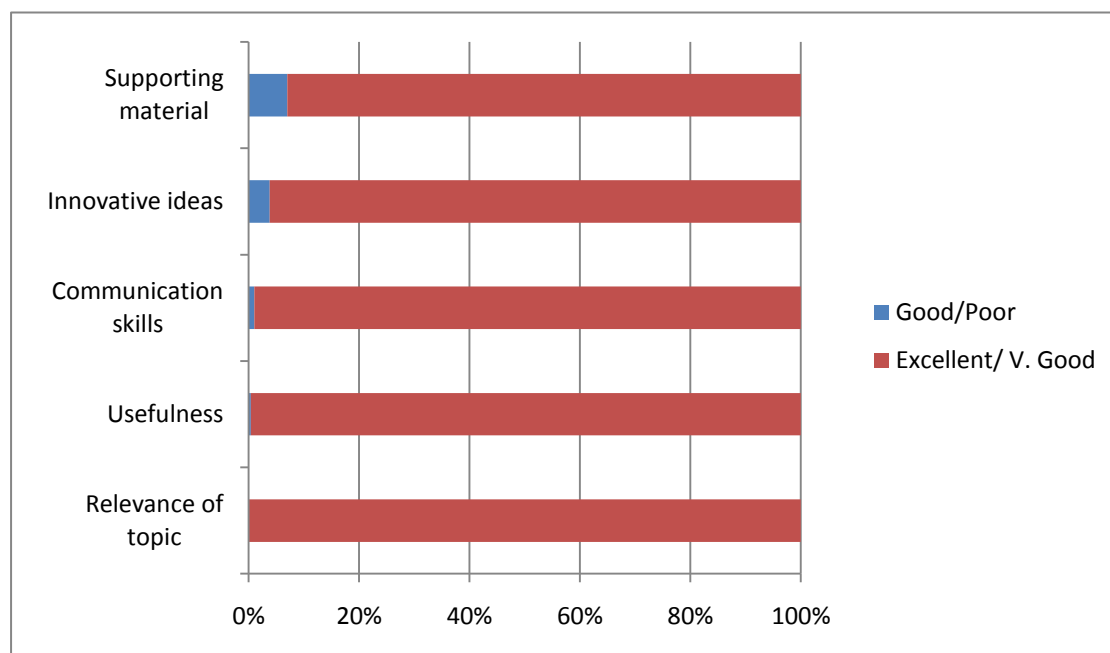
This section prompted attendees to comment on the booking process, pre-event organisation of the event, the venue facilities, and the documentation. In all cases the reports indicated that attendees rated the four organisational aspects as very useful and useful. Booking and pre-event arrangements was rated as useful and very useful by 98% with the highest being 100% and the lowest 94%. Organisation on the day scored 96.8% (100% - 94%), the documentation was also considered as very useful and useful by 94.4% (100% - 87%) and finally the facilities average rating by 90% of being very useful and useful (100% - 87.3%).

Figure 1: Organisational issues



The second part of the questionnaire explored issues concerning the content of the event. Attendees were asked to comment on the relevance of topic, usefulness of presentation, communication skills presentation of innovative ideas and finally handouts and supporting material. Relevance of topics in all countries scored as excellent and very good by 100%. For the great majority of respondents 99.6% (100% being the highest and 98% the lowest), the usefulness of the meeting was also rated as excellent and very good. 99% of the respondents found that the communication skills of presenters were excellent and very good. Finally the content of the supporting material also achieved a very good rating by 93%.

Figure 2: Content of the meeting



## Open ended questions

### Strengths

In the third part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked through open ended questions to indicate what were the strengths and weaknesses of the meeting they had attended.

In the majority of the country reports, attendees indicated that the content was one of the strengths of the meetings, as was the diversity of relevant topics, experience of presenters, and quality of presentations. Additionally, the presentation of innovative ideas and their implementation, for many attendees across countries, acted as a source of inspiration and encouragement. Another subject documented, was the balance between theoretical and practical

information as well as the usefulness of information regarding implementation of projects especially when it came to foreign experience.

Reports from most countries indicated that one of the strengths of the meeting was the provision of an opportunity to meet new people, that facilitated exchange of knowledge and created a basis for future collaboration. Another most important indication was the fact that these meetings raised awareness concerning the issue of Life Long Learning.

Finally in some countries several positive remarks were documented concerning the high standard of the meeting organisation and its facilities

### **Weaknesses**

Although on average presentations scored very high in the reports, in a few instances some attendees felt that the presentations did not meet their expectations. A few expressed their dissatisfaction with the communication skills of some presenters. Also some commented on the fact that the time schedule was not kept by the presenters. In several countries people felt that more documentation on the subject should have been distributed although they felt that this can be dealt with after the meeting, as long as the organisers produce additional material and make it available either electronically or in printed form.

In some countries constructive comments regarding the questionnaire itself were documented.

## **4. Summary**

To sum up attendees in all national meetings welcomed the opportunity of such meetings which provided the grounds to discuss and reflect of the subject of Life Long Learning, and what is the role of the library and information community in this process, what new skills are required, etc. Furthermore, the exchange of professional knowledge and experiences, and the opportunity to extend collaborations to new partners were major strong points of these meetings.

## **APPENDIX 1: Evaluation form for National Meetings**

## **Evaluation Form of National Meeting**

We would be grateful if you could spare sometime to gives up feed back, in order for us to evaluate whether the aims of the event were achieved. If you prefer anonymity please feel free to omit the information. Thank you for your time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: : \_\_\_\_\_

**Using the scale, please rate the following aspects of the event**

### **Organisational Issues**

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Below Average	Poor
Booking & pre-event organisation					
Organisation on the day					
Documentation					
Venue facilities					
Quality of catering					

**Content of the event**

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Below Average	Poor
Relevance of topics					
Usefulness of presentations					
Communication skills of presenters					

Positive aspects (strengths)

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Aspects to be improved (weaknesses)

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Please feel free to comment on any aspect of the event

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## **APPENDIX 2: Photographs from the events**

National meeting of Austria



National meeting of Hungary



National meeting of Romania



National meeting of Slovenia



National meeting of Greece

