

Memory protocol of the first working meeting

Transnational Adapt-Partnership COP and TaT

120298-130298 at COP, Kokkola, Finland

■ Participants

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| Cop | Liisa Niemi, Tarja Slotte |
| TaT | Thomas Becker, Juergen Reckfort |

■ Purpose of the meeting

- Coming to know each other in person.
- Putting the transnational co-operation in a more concrete form.

■ Time Schedule

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| 120298 | 19:00 - 22:00 | Get together at the restaurant Vanha Lyhty <i>guest:</i> Mauri Koivunen, Director of the Municipal Federation of Education in Central Ostrobotnia |
| 130298 | 09:00 - 12:30 | Showing the locations |
| | 12:30 - 13:30 | Lunch |
| | 13:30 - 14:30 | Co-operation colloquy <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Presentation of the respective national projects2. Course of the national projects so far and actual situation |
| | 14:30 - 15:00 | Coffee Break |
| | 15:00 - 16:00 | Co-operation colloquy (continuation) <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Concretizing of working contents and agreement on further proceeding |

■ Co-operation colloquy

ad 1. Presentation of the respective national projects

- ▶ COP and TaT surveyed the subjects and contents of their national projects.
- ▶ COP and TaT exchanged information on the respective situation of the Finnish and German Textile and Clothing Industry. TaT presented several publications dealing with the course of development and the actual structure of the Textile and Clothing Sector in Germany and especially in the Muensterland region. Comparison with the development course in Finland shows up that in both countries there has been a massive decline of the domestic production level and the number of employees during the last 10 years. Comparison of the size of the firms shows up, that Finnish textile and clothing enterprises are on average smaller than German enterprises, ever so often even micro-sized (number of employees less than 5).
- ▶ Furthermore COP and TaT were discussing the possibilities of IT. They agreed that using IT offers a great chance for European textile and clothing firms to get higher speed and flexibility in between the textile chain and to respond more quicker to customers' demands. Using IT was therefore seen to be an important strategy for strengthening the firms' international competitiveness.
- ▶ TaT reported on its former project experience within the QUATRO programme, an EU-co-financed programme of the Federal State Northrhine-Westfalia, dealing also with the reorganisation and vocational training subject. The TaT-ADAPT-project TexNet developed from the QUATRO-project as well as from a rising interest in questions of business applicability of IT. - The project of COP is the first experience with the EU-ADAPT-programme.

ad 2. Course of the national projects so far and actual situation

Both projects started at the beginning of 1998. COPs project will last 2 years, TaTs project 3 years.

COP

- ▶ Ms Niemi informed TAT that she will gradually withdraw from the ADAPT-project in the near future. Ms Slotte is planned to be the mainly responsible person for doing the project.
- ▶ By mailings and phone calls COP has informed about 150 regional textile and clothing firms about the possibility and usability for participating within the ADAPT project. The feedback of the firms was very good. Many firms have already shown their interest, especially regarding the Electronic Commerce topic.
- ▶ Ms Slotte presented a first design of the ADAPT website of COP and told that the INTERNET presentation of COP as a whole is to be awaited within the next weeks.
- ▶ Concerning the transnational co-operation TaT is at present the only transnational ADAPT-partner of COP. COP is still looking for further partners. TaT informed COP that during the last conversation with NOVALYS Mr Dufour told that he is on principle interested in co-operating with COP, but that he firstly has to clarify some things with his own national ADAPT authority.

TaT

- ▶ A first working meeting took place with a firm, which is interested to create a system specific EDI-based client-supplier-network. The firm is located in Northrhine-Westfalia and employed with textile auxiliary, especially with ecological colours. Kick off conversations with potential suppliers and clients are already running.
- ▶ Another working meeting was held with an ADAPT-project of narrowly identical contents. The project is located in the Muensterland region. There are possibilities for doing workshops for the purpose of experience exchange.
- ▶ TaT participated at an EDI-Training of EDI consulter MLC, Ratingen, Germany.
- ▶ TaT as whole institution presents itself already in the INTERNET, although only in a German language version. Creating of an ADAPT specific website has not yet begun, but the necessary work will start soon.
- ▶ TaT has already two transnational partners (COP/Kokkola, NOVALYS/Paris). A first meeting with French partner NOVALYS took place in December 1997. TaT is looking for a third partner and has already contacted two Italian institutions, who however did not give any feedback yet.

ad 3. Concretizing of working contents and agreement on further proceeding

- ▶ Concerning the work programme of the Transnational Document COP and TaT agreed to concentrating on points
 - C. Internet based exchange of information
 - D. Exchange of experience about new applications of Electronic Commercein the beginning. In particular COP and TaT agreed in regularly exchanging information on the newest IT developments and firm applications they come to know within their own national working context.
- ▶ With regard to point B. (Development of training courses) COP and TaT did not feel a need for action for the time being. However, TaT offered its assistance for creating an appropriate EDI training module, if COP should plan to integrate the EDI topic into the training course.
- ▶ Concerning the search for further transnational partners Ms Niemi will contact Mr Dufour by phone at the beginning of week 8 to arrange a personal meeting between COP and NOVALYS within the next weeks. Ms Niemi will inform TaT on the conversation results.
- ▶ Regarding the joint web presentation of the transnational project COP and TaT discussed potential website contents. COP and TaT agreed that the website should not only contain information on the project, but also portraits and/or links to participating firms and other project relevant institutions. COP and TaT agreed for Ms Slotte sending a copy of the COP-ADAPT website design to TaT as soon as it is finished. Based on this TaT will develop a design for the joint website. This design will be discussed and modified at the next meeting.

- ▶ COP and TaT plan to meet again in June 1998, this time at TaT, Germany. Planned subjects of the meeting are: showing TaT locations, visiting selected textile and clothing firms in the Muensterland region, finishing the joint website.
- ▶ COP and TaT agreed in organising a joint workshop not only for the transnational project partners, but also for firm participants of the respective national projects. Because such a workshop requires extensive preparations it is planned not before 1999. In the course of 1998 COP and TaT will develop together a concept for concretizing the subject and content of the workshop.

Kokkola and Rheine, 23.02.1998

(Liisa Niemi)

(Dr. Thomas Becker)

(Tarja Slotte)

(Dr. Juergen Reckfort)