

In each country partner of the MOMA project, a workshop has been held to train educators about the method with a view to the experimentation and actualization of the MOMA method with adults. Some brief information about the workshops:

Workshop in Germany

The beneficiaries who will be involved during the experimentation are immigrant women, mainly with low education, learning German language and preparing themselves for the job market/looking for a job or looking for a vocational perspective for their future.

CH-EU cooperates with VMDO - an umbrella association including ca. 50 immigrant self organizations in Dortmund. VMDO also has an Adult Education center. They also cooperate with the International Montessori Kinderhaus Dortmund, the Bildungsbüro Dortmund (Educational Office) and the Stadtverwaltung Dortmund Hörde (District Council Dortmund Hörde).

The activities that will be proposed are an integration course or a course about vocational perspectives with low skilled, unemployed immigrant women, with a special focus on the Montessori principle: independence (and possibly also elements of observation and learning environment). CH-EU is going to involve their two trainers from the National Workshop for Teachers and Trainers (Andrea Große-Wiesmann and Teresa Zakzrewski) in the preparation of the Experimentation, as well as the Montessori pre-school teachers who took part in the Workshop.

CH-EUW plans a weekly workshop over 3-4 weeks, with start in October 2014, for 4-6 hours a week (total: 20-24 hours). The Montessori principles that will be deepened are Independence (Observation and Learning environment)

What do we intend to do in experimentation phase: in the experimentation in Germany CH-EU is planning to design either an integration course for newly arrived immigrant women or a workshop focussing on vocational perspectives for unemployed immigrant women, based on the Montessori principle of Independence. They have collected the most important elements to be developed for the future course, as well as the Montessori principles connected to those elements, which you find in the chart below.



Workshop in Portugal

Senior University of Évora organized the Montessori workshop for trainers in the end of May of 2014 allowing 12 trainers to attend the workshop that was divided in two days. The main focus was on the method in general, presenting it and all the principles. As it was decided the "absorbent mind" principle was worked deeper, allowing the participants to do some experimentations in the workshop and ways of implementing this principle with senior adults.

Workshops at European level for orienting and motivating adults



The two sessions were very profitable, once that most of the trainers was very enthusiastic about the possibility to implement it with their learners in the perspective of finding out if their learners have or not an absorbent mind.

Workshop in Romania

The EU workshop is addressed to teachers and trainers, involving experts took part in the experimentation phase. We created a database with actors (teachers, experts, public authorities with experience in adults education) who take part in the online workshop. MOMA national workshops took place at Teachers Training Centre (Iasi Romania) - an associated partner, on 21-28 March 2014 and 4 April 2014

Instructors were Mariana Pop, Teodora Purle, Manuela Apostol, Mihaela Poroch.

The participants were 14 (4 experts/instructors +10 teachers)

Montessori principles chosen by our institution were: Absorbent mind and Learning environment

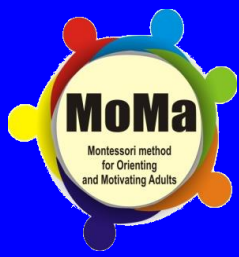
The workshops focused on:

- Identifying the characteristics and needs of adults to outline the profile of the target group (characteristics, learning needs / development skills, special skills etc.);
Identifying students learning style, according to the theory of multiple intelligences (Gardner) by using some questionnaires

Participants were asked to propose, as a group, suggestions for improving the learning environment of working adults in agreement with Montessori principle.

Workshop topic MOMA had a positive impact, the majority of participants are interested in the Montessori pedagogical method, considering her current today, welcome to implement it and adults in needs.





Workshop in Lithuania

The MOMA National Workshop for Trainers took place in Vilnius on 26-27 & 29-30 of May 2014.

The trainers were specialists involved in MOMA project and responsible for management of workshop:

Svetlana Novopolskaja, pedagogue, with more than 15 years experience working in field of education.

Konstantin Stech, social worker, with more than 10 years experience working in social sphere with disabled people.

The target group involved was selected thoroughly from experts in different fields: from the Vilnius College - University of Applied Sciences, from organizations providing formal and informal education for Roma adults and children (youth).

The contingent of the group was composed with the purpose to use their experience trying the innovative method. All the participants were very interested in the general idea of applying the principles of Maria Montessori in adult education. Most of them had doubts and questions at the beginning and motivation to participate at the end.

The MOMA project was presented during the Consultation on project in Vilnius College – University of Applied Sciences, in Pedagogical Faculty, in N. - Akmene Adult Education Centre, in Panevezys Adult Education Centre, in the Lithuanian Montessori Method Centre.

The structure of the workshop was formed according to the template suggested by the lead partner of the training for trainers, specifically 4 sessions on 4 themes were organized:

1st session - The Montessori Method for Adults – Presentation of the Model with pedagogical axes; 2nd session - Absorbent Mind and the Learning Environment; 3rd session - Experimentation and Exploration; 4th session- Observation and Independence.

Each session consisted of: Presentation of the MOMA Model or part of it; Observation from expert; Debates in group; Synthesis; Practice-oriented case studies. The debate on innovativeness of methods of education was sharp and fruitful.

The composition of the groups was based on idea to present the Montessori method for adults for the experts/trainers having experience both in field of andragogics and adult Roma education.

After the training the trainers acquainted with the Montessori method for adults and Model; the Montessori method for adults is recognised as innovative and progressive; the dignity of the method – its versatility; Roma adult learners need to be in a specific position (level of education, age, traditions); the Montessori method for adults has to be presented to other institutions providing secondary education for adults.



Workshop in Italy

Centro Studi e Formazione Villa Montesca developed the Italian National Workshop for Trainers in collaboration with professors by the University of Perugia and experts in the training and education science at higher education level and in the study and research, as well as in the implementation of educative methodologies.

The backgrounds of the participants in the MOMA Workshop are various but all combined by a common line and characterized by the connection to adult education.

Among the participants some collaborate as teachers of adult education centers of the territory, some are teachers of vocational education centers/schools and some work in the public social services.

All of them were enthusiastic about the contents and themes of the workshop and found the Montessori method and principles really interesting, above all for the innovativeness of the topics discussed during the workshop, and liked the exchange of ideas and opinions met.

The Italian Workshop was divided in three different sessions: during the first session the participants were introduced in first instance to the Methodological Model elaborated within MOMA. Then the institutional aspects and the system of adult training has been deeply analyzed to provide a clear overview and framework of the education of adults.

During the second session the education of adults was explained and analyzed from a different point of view, pointing out the relevance of Creativity in the education of adults.

In the last session the psychological perspective was presented and analyzed by focusing on the principle of the absorbent mind and on the deepening of the cognitive side and the dynamics of growing of adult minds.

The Workshop sessions were divided into an introductory phase that aimed to provide a first overview of the MOMA method and model and a second phase of case studies where the learners had the opportunity to face with real cases of practical situations where the principles found a concrete application. This helped a lot to let the participants have a participatory role in the workshop and to create a cooperative learning process, where an intense exchange of opinions, experience and ideas took place.

The principles explained during the trainers workshop in Italy were: absorbent mind; the learning environment; experimentation and exploration; observation; independence. The objective is to develop in particular, during the following phase of experimentation, two main areas:

- the principle of Absorbent Mind with the NEET Adults - Not in Education, Employment and Training (the group is also composed by a number of immigrants), focusing on the activities of creativity and storytelling;
- the principle of Learning Environment that will be put into practice by launching a national contest a call for young architects from all over the country for designing and planning a Montessorian classroom.

A Commission of experts (pedagogues, famous architects).



■ **Workshop in UK**

The Workshops for Trainers were held at the BHA Offices in Old Trafford, Manchester. A wide variety of people from all aspects of the educational world have been invited and were fully attended. The workshops have been overseen by Janet Batsleer the Principal Lecturer in Youth and Community Work at Manchester Metropolitan University. She was assisted by Nigel Richards as responsible person from the Sexual Health Team in the BHA in Manchester.

These workshops gave the opportunity to explain to the participants the principles of the MoMa project and looked at how the project can be formally implemented through the insight and cooperation of the professionals who will necessarily be involved when full implementation is rolled out. These workshops for trainers will be followed by a series of experimental workshops that will, through the application of the MoMa principles, seek to show how successful the use Montessori methods can be in providing adult education, particularly for the disadvantaged

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