



Training of cultural mediators utilizing new Social Networking Software

# E-newsletter

Issue 5

## What you can find in this issue:

- **Rich platform offering blog entries, forum discussions and learning scenarios**
- **Cultural mediator meetings and workshops in Poland and Spain**
- **Guided learning scenarios being built up**
- **SONETOR connects with other social media**

July 2013

## A growing network and enriched content

Much has happened in the past weeks and months in the SONETOR project. Find an update on the activities on the social networking and training platform in this newsletter issue.

A lot of content has been added to the SONETOR platform thanks to core users' contributions. For example, the blog entries shared by the registered users contain a lot of relevant information

talking about events or link to interesting articles for professionals in the field of cultural mediation. Have a closer look at the activities and benefit from the platform by reading the articles below.

Furthermore, the partners from all member countries have very actively reached out to Cultural Mediators who may be interested in contributing and learning through the exchange of information

and experience. Read about these activities, in particular about the meetings held in Poland and Spain, in the article on the next page.

The project partners are also working hard on the development of further scenarios of interest to the SONETOR platform users. This process and present results are shortly described on the next page of this newsletter.

## Information and interaction on the platform

The user count of the SONETOR platform is presently very close to exceeding 100 registered users!

These users are not only "visitors" of the platform, they are active participants who receive valuable input for their daily work as counsellors, teachers, social workers or similar. They also share their professional experience, read and add blog entries or contribute to discussions in the forums. Interaction takes place even across the borders.

One of the articles recently posted by a cultural mediator treats the sensitive issue of how migrants feel about "integration" and about what has and what has not worked

for them. The article quotes Martin Schwenk, who is an author and expert in this field. The quote says: "In our society a social conflict is immediately interpreted as a cultural conflict. This attitude won't take us any further!" (source: "Profil" magazine, 03/12). Statements like these and articles that address the topic are an open invitation to start discussing delicate but important issues.

The desired and foreseen gain of sharing and commenting entries like these via the SONETOR platform is to support users at increasing the quality of their services, reaching higher insights into the situation or to increase understanding and empathy for all involved parties. The



"Sorted out" (translated from German "Aussortiert") is the title of this article in the news magazine "Profil" quoted here.

project partners are happy to see the large acceptance of the platform and hope many more users will follow and register.

SONETOR - find our Cultural Mediation groups also on Facebook and LinkedIn:

**NEW!**

[www.facebook.com/groups/107789704868/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/107789704868/)

[www.linkedin.com/groups/Cultural-Mediation-2156075/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Cultural-Mediation-2156075/)



The Forum area of the SONETOR platform provides an opportunity for users to discuss topics. At the moment many users take actively advantage of this feature.



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**Project promoter:**  
Hellenic Open University, Greece  
[www.eap.gr](http://www.eap.gr)

**Project partners:**



BEST Institut für berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personaltraining GmbH, Austria:  
[www.best.at](http://www.best.at)



Computer Technology Institute and Press "Diophantus", Greece:  
[www.cti.gr](http://www.cti.gr)



MARQUE 21 SL, Spain:  
[www.marque.es](http://www.marque.es)



Pontifical University of John Paul II, Poland:  
[www.upjp2.pl](http://www.upjp2.pl)



University of Limerick, Ireland:  
[www.ul.ie](http://www.ul.ie)

## Activities in Spain and Poland

The project partners are having meetings and are inviting professionals in the field to participate in shaping the contents collaboratively.

### Meeting with Cultural Mediators in Cracow, Poland

On March 27, 2013 the Polish partner, lead by the national project coordinator Mr. Krzysztof Gurba, invited stakeholders to explain them and share the project and its products with them. The attendants of this event were properly introduced to all the functions of the platform. They evaluated it and afterwards proposed new features, gave input that could be included. Finally, a core team of users in Poland was appointed at that meeting. A

representative will collect feedback and reflections and will maintain the community alive, share contributions with other interested users.



Polish Cultural Mediators were introduced to the SONETOR project and platform.

### First SONETOR workshop in Spain

On April 30, 2013 also the Spanish partner held a meeting with 12 professional mediators in their home town Navarre. The positive aspects as well as the concerns regarding the interaction network were intensively dis-

cussed. They appreciated the attractive medium for exchanging opinions and experiences regarding integration and related issues across countries. The potential users also pledged for tight control and careful moderation by the administrators. They are worried about xenophobia or racist interventions which are an ardent topic in this field. The Spanish workshop participants enjoyed the discussions at that encounter and agreed to contribute to the platform with content and comments.



Interesting discussions took place at the first SONETOR workshop in Spain.

Learn more about the project and remain updated about events by subscribing to the SONETOR newsletter via [www.sonetor-project.eu](http://www.sonetor-project.eu) or visit the platform: [www.culturalmediators.eu](http://www.culturalmediators.eu)

## "Dimitra" - a story-based guided learning scenario

The guided story-based learning scenario "Cultural mediation in education" is now in the decisive phase of its development. A skeleton of the scenario has been uploaded onto the SONETOR learning platform. The reader will find nine steps in the scenario to follow the plot of the *Dimitra* story.

Dimitra is a teacher of Greek Literature in a *Middle Education Greek School*; she has to deal with various situations immigrants can find themselves in throughout the plot. The first eight steps are associated with a set of information related to expected learning outcomes, background, domain knowledge

and competences. Keywords, further readings and links are included to help readers better understand all. At the end of the learning phase, the user will be asked to fill in a quiz and to pass a test or then to go back, to continue, to discuss on-line or off-line with co-users and peers. Each step is illustrated by a picture and a short movie presenting the plot of the story.

The ninth step is dedicated to possible solutions of the situations described in the story, illustrated by the following three short movies:

Solution 1: "*Dimitra and students meeting with parents*"

Solution 2: "*Dimitra and students meeting with local community*"

Solution 3: "*Dimitra and students meeting with school manager*"

Feel free to submit supporting contents, interesting cases, etc. and discuss these on the platform with us!



A scene from a SONETOR educational video: Terik and Stavros, two immigrants, arrive per ship in their new country and go separate ways.

A growing network and rich content for Cultural Mediators across Europe



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