Italy, Rome / DIAMOND- Dialoguing Museums for a New Cultural Democracy

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Summary of project intent

DIAMOND–Dialoguing Museums for a New Cultural Democracy is a EU funded project (Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013/Sub-programme Grundtvig) aimed at fostering museum activities addressed to disadvantaged adults using ICT (digital storytelling) as a means of participation, interaction and self-expression.
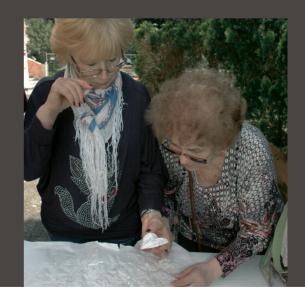
DIFFICULTIES MET	RESULTS
▶ Working with different partners (with different aims, methodologies and visions)	▶ 8 pilot projects realized by museums with disadvantaged groups
▶ Audiences not used to cooperation and participation: gaining their trust was quite a long and delicate process	▶ 125 people involved in the digital story-telling process
▶ Personal involvement necessary to tell personal stories: also in this case, the process was long and delicate	▶ 50 museum professionals trained in the use of digital storytelling
▶ Cultural barriers (audiences coming from other cultures)	▶ Handbook on digital storytelling in museums in 4 languages downloadable in pdf
▶ Technological barriers (ICT)	

"'As a museum educator, I can say I was extremely enriched by this project, which allowed me to face up to an unfamiliar social reality and helped me develop a new way to create knowledge through the ability to listen, dialogue, exchange and the valorisation of different knowledge bases and ideas."

(member of staff)

Lifelong Learning Programme

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"'I am so proud of what I have done... I would like to show storytelling to all my relatives..."

(Participant)

LEARNINGS

▶ Importance of networking (with civil society associations, etc.) for improving the effectiveness of the projects

▶ Importance of training for museum professionals

▶ Testing of qualitative indicators and gathering of valuable evidence in terms of impact measurement Involving disadvantaged groups strengthen the social role of museums and provide new/different points of view in the construction of a shared knowledge through our common cultural heritage

FUTURE / TIPS

▶ Gathering of new data about the effectiveness of digital storytelling in museums through activities realized in other museums

▶ Studying and researching new qualitative indicators to measure museum impact