



Центар за доживотно учење
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Report on the implementation of the exhibition

Minimathematikum in Skopje,

February 11th – 22nd 2019

1. The exhibition “Minimathematikum” in Skopje, Macedonia, in the context of the project “Maths for Minis”

In accordance with the project aims and planning, the first journey of the travelling exhibition “Minimathematikum” was to Macedonia. Its’ first destination was Skopje – the capital, where it was exhibited in the period 11-22 February 2019, in line with the project timeline. This project activity was conducted by the project partner Lifelong Learning Center. In general, this activity was implemented with success, as arranged and planned.

2. Implementation

2.1. Preparatory phase

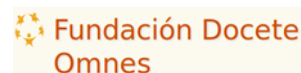
The preparations for the exhibition began in early December, with internal meeting of the team of Lifelong Learning Center, for the development of an action plan of activities, time arrangements, resources plan etc. for a successful conduction of the responsibilities related to the preparation of the exhibition.

According to these arrangements, in the period December – January 2019, comprehensive preparations were made in order to find a suitable exhibition space and to identify schools, kindergartens and other potential educational centers for the children aged 4-8 years as target group of Minimathematikum.

Identification of suitable space. An important part of this segment of the preparatory work was the contact and communication with the office of the Mayor of City of Skopje, in cooperation with whom a suitable space was identified. Several different public institutions which are under the patronage of the municipality of Skopje were considered as potential space. After the analysis of 6 such institutions, the decision was made to set up the exhibition in the Public Institution House of Culture “Kocho Racin” – Skopje.

Preparation of promotional material. An integral segment of the preparation was the development of promotional and informational materials for the project in general with special emphasis of the exhibition in Skopje. This included translation and printing of the leaflet, translation of the newsletter, drafting of a cover letter for communication etc.

Promotion of the exhibition in educational facilities. For this purpose, the project and the exhibition were promoted in several schools and kindergartens and other facilities, such as





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day care centers. In this context, the schools and kindergartens were invited to join in by organizing group visits for their pupils in the age range 4-8 years.

Development of an exhibition schedule. In order to organize and conduct the exhibition in the best possible manner, with maximum efficiency and effectiveness, it was decided to make a schedule of visits. In the communication with the educational facilities, it was decided that the exhibition will be visited by the classes, led and accompanied by their teachers.

Logistical/technical coordination and preparation. This phase included intensive communication with the project coordinator and partners from Germany, for the successful transport from Germany to Macedonia and setting up of the exhibits. Another segment was the preparation of the space, with a range of measures to adjust and organize it for the purposes of Minimathematikum and to create best suitable conditions.

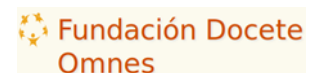
Coordination with project partner Sumnal – Bitola. During the whole process of preparation as well as during the implementation and evaluation phases, regular everyday communication was maintained with the project partner Sumnal from Bitola. This was especially important because Sumnal was to receive the exhibits and organize the exhibition in Bitola.

Conduction of a Learning/Training/Teaching Activity. This meeting, held in the period 9-11 February 2019, was a very important part of the preparation of the exhibition, as it offered introduction into the technical aspect of the exhibition as such, but moreover it aimed at equipping the team with the information, knowledge and know-how on the idea, concept and background of “Minimathematikum” in general and with instructions and recommendations on approaching and guiding the young visitors through each play station. The gained knowledge was very valuable and used in practice throughout the everyday work with the children.

2.2. Conduction

The exhibition was held in the period 11 – 22 February 2019. Three elementary schools (grades 1st to 3rd) and two afterschool day care centers participated. In addition, in the frames of a family day held February 16th, additional children were welcomed. A total of 568 children in the age 4-8 years visited Minimathematikum. *The schedule, as well as an overview on the exact figures of children is presented in point 2.3. of this report.*

It is important to underline that the schools showed great interest and motivation to get involved in the exhibition. Unfortunately, although several attempts were made to involve the kindergartens (telephone calls, e mails, meetings etc.), none of the kindergartens gave positive answer to the invitations.





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The team members of Lifelong Learning Center, who received introductory training, were hosting the visits. As recommended, one visit lasted 90 minutes. The class teacher/s who led and came with the pupils, were asked to fill out the questionnaires.

3. Evaluation of results

The analysis of the project documentation (participants lists, questionnaires) showed following figures:

- a) Teaching staff **38**
- b) Children in total **558**
 out of which, **298 girls** and **260 boys**. Out of them, **5** are with disability and **29** are Roma.
- c) Parents **13**

Date	Female Children	Male Children	Roma Children	Disabled Children	Total
11.02.	15	8	3	/	23
12.02.	10	14	/	2	24
13.02.	17	10	/	/	27
13.02.	16	16	/	1	32
13.02.	15	5	/	/	20
14.02.	16	12	2	/	28
14.02.	7	8	/	/	15
15.02.	12	16	1	/	28
15.02.	7	15	22	/	22
16.02.	7	6	/	/	13
18.02.	6	11	/	1	17
18.02.	21	11	/	/	32
18.02.	14	17	/	/	31
19.02.	12	8	/	/	20
19.02.	13	11	/	/	24
19.02.	17	20	/	/	37
20.02.	12	10	/	/	22
20.02.	17	15	/	/	32
21.02.	22	10	/	1	32
21.02.	12	8	/	/	20
22.02.	15	14	/	/	29
22.02.	15	15	1	/	30
Total	298	260	29	5	558





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The feedback from the teachers in the questionnaires, is summarized in a separate document enclosed to this report.

4. Dissemination

For the purposes of dissemination of information about the project and its activities in Skopje, Lifelong Learning Center prepared promotional materials, conducted meetings with managerial and teaching staff of kindergartens, elementary schools, cultural houses, day care centers for children etc.

Information was spread through the website, as well as on the FB profile of the Lifelong Learning Center, through which **3132** people were reached through the reporting during the exhibition period.

In addition, Lifelong Learning Center created a separate page Minimatematikum Macedonia, where info and pictures from the exhibitions were posted on daily basis. A total of **1143** people were reached through this page in the period of the exhibition in Skopje.

After the completion of the exhibition, the administration of this page was handed over to the partner Sumnal, in order for them to continue reporting with their exhibition. *More detailed overview of the dissemination activities is given in the Dissemination grid.*

5. Experiences / Findings / Recommendations

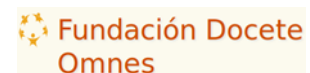
The participation of the Lifelong Learning Center in this project in general, and the opportunity to organize and host the exhibition Minimatematikum, was a unique experience. For the team of the Center it was a valuable new experience and an extraordinary learning opportunity.

Logistics. Although it was challenging to manage the 1,5 tons heavy exhibition and to create all necessary conditions for putting it together, it was managed smoothly.

- In this regard, all instructions that came from the side of the German partners were crucial and very useful for successful technical management at the beginning and the end of the exhibition.

Observations during group visits: From the two-week hosting and guidance of 22 groups of 558 children, following experiences were made:

- The children are impressed as they enter and see the exhibits and they are euphoric*
- The teachers are also amazed and thrilled and also actively play and explore*





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- *In the first 15 – 20 minutes, the children have a rather disoriented behavior, they explore all play stations. After that, they slow down and begin to play with more attention and start choosing to play with preferred play stations.*
- *The educators' team of Lifelong Learning Center had the experience that the 90 minutes foreseen for one visit, are too long. It was anticipated that after approx. 60 minutes, children start to get hyperactive and lose attention. Therefore, in most of the cases the sessions lasted 70-75 minutes.*
- *It was very useful to give introduction at the beginning and to communicate several rules to the children*
- *The play station Gearwheel (Zahnräder) turned out to be rather “dangerous” (in cases when children tended to pull the gears, which are heavy. Another “risky” situation is when one child is spinning the lower gear with the handle and others touching the board with the hands). Additional attention in general needed to be paid in order to prevent injury.*

General recommendations:

- ***From the discussions led with the managerial staff and the teachers of the elementary schools and their feedback about Minimathematikum, it is clear that this kind of approach in bringing mathematical concepts closer to children, is not present in the formal school education in Macedonia. Due to various factors, the current circumstances in the constant changing of curricula for children from 1st to 4th grade, there is a gap related to practical educational work, which creates a need for such concepts as Minimathematikum.***
- ***The interest and willingness of elementary schools for visiting Minimathematikum was much bigger than the capacities to accept them in the given period of 15 days. From that aspect, there is a need for addressing the lack of practical methods and suitable equipment and learning environment in schools for teaching and learning mathematics. The presence of Minimathematikum for a longer period of time (6 – 12 months), in the form of a project cooperation, would be a possibility to cover more schools, not only in Skopje, but also countrywide.***





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6. Photo gallery



IBE Institut für
Bildung & Erziehung



Fundación Docete
Omnes

BERUFSBILDENDE SCHULEN RINTELN

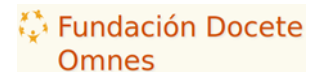
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TEACHING/GUIDING/SEARCHING

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Skopje, March 19th 2019

Biljana Mojsovska Manojlova, Lifelong Learning Center

