



Xlibris
Evaluation Summary
4th Transnational Meeting
27.-31.07.2015; Varna, Bulgaria

The 4th meeting has been evaluated directly after the meeting with short statements by the partners, which were recorded as videos. In addition the partners were asked to answer some questions in written form sometime after the meeting after they had time to reflect about the meeting and think about the different aspects and methods used during the workshops. This document is a summary of the comments by the partners.

1. What were your expectations on the workshops in Varna?

The partners were excited to work with users and librarians of a big public library to find out what kind of services they need and expect and how they feel about the existing system. They expected to learn from final users their visions and to show to the librarians the possibilities of new literacies and services they can develop. Another expectation was to get new ideas for the establishment of new services.

In addition, one partner wrote that he expected to refine his vision on the X-Libris methodology and to evaluate what are the contact points between needs of users and librarians for new Smart ICT services.

2. Did the workshops meet your expectations?

All partner agree, that the workshops met their expectations to a high extend. It was a very good experience to work with users and librarians of the same library. Public librarians came up with very interesting service ideas (quite different from academic librarians). But the partner also mentioned that they were able to see that librarians often focused more on material improvements than on intellectual ones.

3. Were the methods and tools used during the workshops efficient from your point of view?

All partners mentioned, that the tools used were very useful. Not using many methodologies together and focusing on Lego Serious Play was good. Prototyping also worked very well. It helped refining the thoughts and putting them in a more realistic level. Participants were also exited and motivated. It has also been stated that it was useful to change some methods such as the presentation of smart technologies and social media before asking the participants to think of new services in their libraries.

4. What did you learn during the workshops?

Partner answered that they learned that there are some differences between the expectations and needs of academic, school and public library users. Another observation was that prototyping makes



participants to express themselves in a very concrete way. They are excited and involved when they are working on the prototype.

One partner mentioned that sometimes the explanations of the different methods and tools had not been clear to the participants. Therefore, the users need to be guided in a structured way with ready-made clear exercises using different methodologies. It could be beneficial to introduce the Pitch concept to the users to make it easier for them to sell their ideas.

Another partner wrote that it is difficult to change the stereotypes of the library and that the X-libris project has given the possibility to change the stereotypes of a traditional library. The workshops encouraged the library community to start creating a modern smart library.

It has also been mentioned that due to the discussions about the workshop program in advance as well as the flexible learning model at the workshop it has been possible to put the lessons learned into practice.

5. Did the workshops in the different countries help you to define and/ or fine-tune your local activities?

One participant still had some doubts if it is possible to implement the lessons learned during the workshops in a small library. However, all other partners answered, that they learned many new things during the workshops. Although it will not be possible to adapt all ideas to the needs of each partner institution, the partners took ideas out of the workshops, which can be integrated in their local circumstances. Especially the discussion among the partnership and on the different methods within the Xlibris methodology played an important role and had an effect on the definition and implementation of the services in each country.

6. Do you feel confident about the next steps in the project?

The partners feel confident about the next steps in the project. All ongoing activities under the project lead to achieve its targeted aims: creating innovative open educational resources, using smart ICT to design new library services and bringing end user to take part in service design. All countries completed service design. Next step (brickme platform and creation of OER and MOOC) still need to be worked on. However, it became clear from which step the activities have to be continued. First, we should start to project librarians and teachers attitude and encourage them to use modern technologies, create a non-traditional learning environment, which contains smart technologies and is organized with the help of social media.