



*Project: „Innovative Integration of Video Interaction Training and E-learning in an European Context“
Programme EU: Leonardo da Vinci*



REPORT

**of the Introductory Course
West University in Timisoara
25th – 27th of June 2008**

trainer:



Katerina Silhanova
social worker
accredited lector and supervisor for VIT
SPIN Czech Republic

web-conference:



Hilary Kennedy
educational psychologist
accredited lector and supervisor for VIG
Dundee University, UK

Participants:

One month before the course, Mrs. Ana Muntean, PhD, has sent to many institutions in Timisoara an invitation at this Introductory Course with VIT method. 16 participants confirmed their participation at this IC, but only 12 attended the course.

Nr.	Name	Work place	Email
1.	Ciprian Marian Olteanu	Casa Faenza, Timisoara	ciprian_olteanu2002@yahoo.com
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The issues that were presented:

1st day:

- ★ History of the VIT method, socio-political circumstances and geographical spread of the method
- ★ Values and beliefs and specifics of the method (solution oriented work, system approach, interactive approach)
- ★ Theoretical base of the method – theory of intersubjectivity, mediated learning, empowermental approach, self-modelling etc.
!! Web-conference through e-pop: Hilary Kennedy, University of Dundee, partner of the project
- ★ Methodology of VIT I-II: first contact with client; helping camera, making useful videoclips – basic principles
- ★ Showing the way of working - Case study (Romanian family)

2nd day:

- ★ Basic Contact Principles of successful interaction
- ★ Methodology of VIT III: analysis of communication and micro-analysis, video editing and preparing material for feedback session, intervention planning
- ★ „Traject plan“ as a trajectory of change (in different systems – family, schools..)
- ★ Showing the way of working - Case study (Romanian workers),
- ★ VIT research – introducing the intranet portal and materials placed there

3rd day:

- ★ Methodology IV: how to give feedback session,
- ★ Finalization and evaluation of the intervention work with users, follow-up session
- ★ Indication and limits for VIT intervention and VIT therapeutical concept
- ★ Ethical issues, “what does it mean to be VIT worker”
- ★ VIT and its implementation in organizations of social services and education system
- ★ System of education in VIT – possibilities in Romania
- ★ ICT tools in the process of dissemination of VIT in Romania international standards for accreditation
- ★ Literature, resources for informations etc.

Katerina Silhanova arrived in Timisoara in 24 of June and was waited at the airport by Laura Pop and by Calin, the worker from SCOP (project partner). We went directly to the course venue (one building of the West University), so that Katerina could see the space, the room where the course will take place and to check and prepare the equipment together. We established the way in which the room will be organized and the plan for next day morning.

In the first day of the course, both Katerina and Laura arrived early in the morning to arrange the room where the course will be and to prepare the equipment (data projector, TV, video cameras, video player). We also printed written materials for participants, prepared by Katerina. In the middle of program, Katerina organized a web conference (using e-pop) with Hilary Kennedy from Dundee University, who presented some important theoretical aspects of VIT method to the participants. Mr. Marinel Iordan, the IT director of West University, appointed Sergiu Moza, network administrator, to help us with internet connection and other technical things. All equipment worked very well. It was also decided to offer a small lunch to the participants during the lunch breaks, specially because of the new location of the office that is quite distant from the town center and around this area there are no fast food facilities available.

For some of the participants there was not easy to understand English (language which lector used), so the simultaneous translation was provided by Laura Pop during all three days.



In the second day, Mrs. Anca Sabau, who is now aspirant supervisor, working at Casa Faenza as a psychologist, came and presented to the participants some of her work with using VIT intervention in the family with autistic child.

The course had a very good atmosphere especially because of the very high human and professional quality of the trainer. Also all participants were very enthusiastic and dedicated to learn this new method and friendly atmosphere was created during the course by all of them, partly because they knew each other from working collaboration and partly because there has been high level of trust and confidence supported by the trainer during all three days. Very soon the participants became a real team working together without barriers. This aspect facilitated the learning process and maintained the interest for the topic.



During this 3 days introductory course all the participants enjoyed the information, the practical exercises, role plays, working under the leadership of the trainer and being together. The last day Katerina presented the intranet portal (intranet.spinlink.eu) to the participants, which interested all of them. The last day they were all invited to participate in the system – there was established a virtual group: IC Timisoara with full access to the materials and research.

At the end of the course, each participant received a diploma for attending this Introductory Course. This was not agreeable situation for our Czech trainer, that the certificate didn't include SPIN CR as a partner of the project and our trainer's home organization. According her there should be clear rules about certificates and their authorisation as an outcome of the project.

During all three days of this Introductory Course participants - professional caretakers in the field of child and family care, had the opportunity to reflect on the strong aspects of VIT method and possibilities for its use in Romania.

There were also different learning methods used during the course:

- Power point presentations, English version, some parts translated into Romanian. All presentations (also Hilary Kennedy's are placed in document store on intranet.spinlink.eu)



- Activating methods, involving participants and creating the atmosphere (games for building up the group)
- Active methods of learning and reflecting
- Videoclips (and video-case studies) where presented
- Life video-recordings were made and analyzed immediately by participants
- Role-plays
- Discussions
- Feedback



Evaluation

Questions:

1. What did you liked most at this IC?

- the method which was presented here, its principles which was something very new,
- positive approach (in learning on the place and in the method itself),
- interactivity – learning by doing,
- combination of theory with practical examples and with the professional experience of the trainer,
- clear explanations based on experience,
- quality of transmitting the information,
- interaction in the group, which was guided by the trainer
- the way of approaching the movies and talking about people (clients)
- therapeutical aspects of the methods based on increasing the self esteem
- the way of microanalysis the images and the key moments of the movies
- the clear structure of the course
- he trainer's empathy
- different way of approaching us as participants
- self-evaluation and constant reflection

2. In which way do you think that the course will help to your professional development? What about your personal development?

- to improve the way of interaction with others
- I could use it in my activity
- the method is already used in the center where I work
- VIT offers possibilities of improving some behavior patterns
- it's a good way of self acknowledgement and self-analysis
- it could help me in my professional and personal development
- it will help me in solving the problems of communication in the team which I coordinate
- it will improve the communication with our clients
- it will help me to listen more to others
- another way of seeing the human behavior
- it takes time, patience and lot of practice
- it helped me to know when to interact and when to wait for somebody's intentions
- it would help me improve the relationship between parent and child
- to be a better observer of an interaction
- I have received new informations

3. Do you wish to use this method?

- Yes (all the participants want to use the method)

4. What obstacles do you see in your intention of using the method?

- it is not suitable for our beneficiaries and for our activities, but I will use it in other activities that I have
- the mentality of the people concerning being recorded and in front of camera
- the small numbers of supervisors
- the lack of time
- that people do not trust in new methods
- technical difficulties
- 8 participants didn't find any obstacles in using this method

Conclusion:

This introductory course was the last one in the term of the project and also last one organised by WUT – the partner of the project.

The participants enjoyed and scored very high the quality of the course and the way how they could learn (in complexity) about the method itself and also about different cultural aspects of it.

There was some resistance expressed about the future of the method in Romania as it seems, that the quality is depended very much on the quality and accessibility of good supervision. There were also many questions about the way, how the future development and financing of this development will be assured. Participants appreciated

the “international” trainers team and how many common issues they have found in different countries through video presentations.

Dated:

in Timisoara the 5th July, 2008

reported by Laura Pop
West University of Timisoara