

NEwspaper-Theatre Today

1-11-2024

31-1-2026

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MOTIVATION

With the project NETTO we intend to provide Adult educators with specific tools from Theatre of the Oppressed, less used and known, to improve their skills to manage learning situations where news and miscommunication through mass-media (radio, TV), internet, advertising and social media, is the core.

We did a small research asking a sample of Adult educators we know, about their interest in knowing Newspaper-Theatre.

In Parma Giolli asked CIAC, a welcome refugees organisation who involve hundred of migrants in various activities, among them, teaching Italian. They are really interested in promoting active citizenship and they do that organising events and debates, but have no experience to teach Italian in a critical way as Paulo Freire proposed in Brasil and then all over the world: to teach to promote awareness raising. So they want to know Freire's pedagogy and also this Newspaper-Theatre as a tool to improve their own work.

So our research showed a need to cover this area of reading critically the dominant communication in society.

We both are experts in TO; Artemisszio has a long history of working with TO, especially Forum-Theatre, but they are not trained in Newspaper-Theatre, a set of techniques which would help them to analyse critically the dominant information, both in their own and their target groups' minds. Giolli has explored these techniques randomly, with no systematisation, and did also some experimentation with foreign partners, on how to update these techniques.

As both organisations work together in other projects the exchange of ideas is continuous and brought to the conviction that there is a blind spot in the Adult education practice, related to the critical thinking towards mass-media communication (radio, TV), internet, advertising and social media, and the technical approach to teaching local language to foreigners.

Adult educators rarely face communication in society and if they do, they lack of concrete tools to do it in a deep but also playful way. Furthermore the trend is to teach learners how to interpret and filter communication, but rarely they engage learners in producing concrete items to create an alternative narrative, especially related to migration. The reasons are many: lack of Adult educators' competencies, low level of native language to use effectively verbal communication to analyse in depth mass-media, etc., discontinuity in participation, and more.

Moreover Adult educators lead usually under-privileged groups where the perception of being discriminated in daily life and also described by others in negative ways, is a common feeling.

So NETTO aims to respond to these blind spots in a concrete way and after a rich experimentation.

OBJECTIVES

For the reasons explained in "Motivation" paragraph, we see as main goals of NETTO:

1) To promote the knowledge of Newspaper-Theatre among Adult educators as they have the need to better manage the process of empowerment with their learners, to improve their critical thinking and beside that, to improve their language competencies.

- 2) To update the classical techniques to the today world where mass-media are not mainly newspapers, but television, social media, advertising, instead.
- 3) To help Adult educators apply these techniques in their own daily work, especially with migrants.
- 4) To reflect with Adult educators on the concept of teaching local language to migrants as a technical issue or political (the idea from Freire that teaching language means to problematise the world).

For these goals we plan several steps to share our knowledge, to experiment the techniques internally, to apply them in various contexts, to summarise the findings and to write a document about this process that can be useful for other Adult educators.

Even if it is not a main goal, using Newspaper-Theatre to problematise the news from mass-media communication (radio, TV), internet and social media, can also be applied by Adult educators, to reinforce the local language learning process as it is an activity sustained by action (theatre) but implying managing verbal messages too.

DIRECT TARGET GROUPS

They will participate in some of all the activities planned in NETTO:

- 1) Our partnerships, starting from the staff involved, 4 people as a whole in Giolli and Artemisszio.
- 2) Our learners, mainly the participants in Giolli 2-year-long course in Theatre of the Oppressed as Conscientisation: around 35 people; they are mainly trainers, activists, educators, teachers, social workers.

They will be invited to the seminars online and to dissemination activities.

- 3) A group of 10 Adult educators coming to the training, different from age, gender, background, nationality. Some of them will also start the experiment called "Application on the field".

INDIRECT

They will be reached mainly by dissemination activities and Multiplier events:

- 4) The left staff and collaborators of the partnership.
- 5) Other ones involved in the dissemination activities like:
 - Adult educators using active methods
 - Adult educators who do not know TO but willing to know it
 - teachers to migrants outside school
 - volunteers in social field
 - community organisers and who works with communities
 - practitioners in social theatre
 - cultural community animators.

ACTIVITIES

- 1) Theoretical Seminar
- 2) Training
- 3) Systematizing Seminar
- 4) Application on the Field and mentoring
- 5) Follow Up Seminar
- 6) Handbook about using Newspaper-Theatre in Adult Education to de-construct fake news and misinformation related mainly to migration.

RESULTS

- 1) At least the partnership, 10 Adult educators in the training, 30 in Multiplier events and around 100 reached by dissemination activities, get to know Newspaper-Theatre as possible useful tool in the field of migration.
- 2) At least 2 Newspaper-Theatre techniques are invented and the Newspaper-Theatre set has been adapted to mass-media, Internet, advertising and social media information.
- 3) At least the Adult educators who will experiment on the field plus someone else inspired by the project are supported in their application.
- 4) A debate about the political side of teaching second language to migrants has started within the partnership and the people who attended the project activities.
- 5) A 40 pages handbook about Newspaper-Theatre used in Adult education, in English, Italian, Hungarian.

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