

The Atoms&Co project and the fight against school drop out in Belgium

Dispersione scolastica: I progetti dall'Europa alla Sicilia

Catania, 12 aprile 2019

Plan of the presentation

1. Presentation of the Atoms&Co project:
 - Context & aims
 - Productions & public
 - Next steps
2. Fight against school drop out in Belgium:
 - SAS method: What?
 - SAS method: How?
 - What else? Short overview

1. The Atoms&co project: context & aim

- ▶ From October 2017 to September 2019
- ▶ 3 countries (Italy, Spain, Belgium)
- ▶ 6 partners (Gio.net, Unibo, Trinijove, Escola l'Esperança, CEC, Fissaaaj)
- ▶ Based on the conclusion of the previous Atoms project (2013-2015) : the 'family factor' is not sufficiently taken into account in the fight against early school leaving.



The aim of the project is to build an alliance between schools and families

The Atoms&co project: productions & public (1/2)

- ▶ Public: families with children from 6 to 18years old, primary and secondary schools and all the actors that interact within the 'world' of school and children

- ▶ Productions:
 1. Transnational report :
 - compares and analyzes difference in the educational system, the national trends about early school leaving and the individual and collective right of parents.
 - analyses the result of a survey, carried out in the 3 countries, with the aim of identify the opinions and meanings attributed to the relationship between school and family, as well as to grasp the main features of their experience in the relationship with the school and their children's educational path.

The Atoms&co project: productions & public (2/2)

2. Device to facilitate the school-family relationship:

- Based on the transnational report, a device was constructed in collaboration with professional from the field.
- The device is build as to be an 'open' tool that can be adapted in function of the different social, economical, educational context. The purpose of this tool is to be flexible to different national characteristics.
- Key feature of the device is participation. Indeed, the aim is that all actors, in particular the family, can be involved and an active member of the action.

3. Training of trainers:

A international 'training of trainers' was organized in Belgium. The purpose was to teach the device to trainers. Once trained, they will disseminate the device in their countries and hence spreading the device.

The Atoms&co project: next steps

- ▶ The device is currently taught and spread in Italy, Belgium and Spain by the trainers who were trained in Belgium
- ▶ Testing and adaptation of the device
- ▶ Project ends in September 2019



Final seminar in Brussels the 13rd of September 2019

Fight against school drop out in Belgium: The SAS method : What?

- ▶ SAS stands for 'Service d'accrochage scolaire' (School 'hanging up' services)
- ▶ Very specific services as it has a particular decree, both on the field of youth assistance sector and teaching/education
- ▶ Dependent of two ministers, two administrations, two type of financing **but one decree**
- ▶ 12 SAS in the FWB, +- 400 young person
- ▶ Since 2004
- ▶ Composed of educators, social assistant, psychologists, teachers, etc.

Fight against school drop out in Belgium: The SAS method : how? (1/2)

- ▶ SAS welcomed temporary, **during school hours** young people who are either:
 - 1) **excluded** from a educational institution;
 - 2) enrolled in an educational institution but who are in a **crisis situation** within the institution;
 - 3) who **do not attend school** without ever having been excluded from a educational institution.
- ▶ Provide social, pedagogical and educational assistance to young
- ▶ Assistance and support in the family environment

Fight against school drop out in Belgium: The SAS method : how? (2/2)

- ▶ Period of 3 months, renewable once per school year
- ▶ Maximum a year on a student's schooling
- ▶ Time in SAS = time in school (no absence)
- ▶ Aims: improve learning and development capacity to allow a **come back to school**
- ▶ Pedagogical aspect: each SAS have a pedagogical freedom. Can implement innovative action to tackle the mains dropout's cause and factors (school phobia, cyber dependence, etc.)
- ▶ Approach based on self discovery, vocational guidance, establishing of a trust relationship, (re) socialization, etc.

Fight against school drop out in Belgium: what else? Overview.

- ▶ School mediation services: prevent early school leaving and violence, inside or outside school, can intervene at school, teachers, family's (or else) request.
- ▶ Mobile team services: external to the school, can intervene at the director's or organizing authority's request, in case of ESL or crisis situation to rebuild the dialog and support the educative team.
- ▶ Other initiatives against ESL from municipality, schools, etc.



Big differences in ESL rates between region in Belgium BUT
general trends is dropping.

Thank you for your attention!

More info on the Atoms&co project? Go to: <http://atomsandco.eu>

Want the newsletter or information for the final seminar?

Mail at diane.englebert@fissaaj.be