Study on the impact of EPALE in its first two years of operation (January 2015 – December 2016), and its potential future impact

European Commission, DG EMPL

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AGENDA
EPALE FOCUS GROUP

23 November 2017 (10:30 – 13:45)

Location: **Società Geografica Italiana, Palazzetto Mattei in Villa Celimontana, via della Navicella, 12, 00184 Roma RM – Italia**

Organizer: **Adriana Ilisescu, Consultant in the European Policy Department of Ramboll Management Consulting**

	Session	Format	Duration	Time
1.	Session 1: Introduction and 'ice-breaker'	Plenary	30 min	10.30 - 11.00
2.	Session 2: Relevance and added value of EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	20 min	11.00 - 11.20
	Break			*11.20 - 11.30*
3.	Session 3: Themes and content on EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	30 min	11.30 - 12.00
4.	Session 4: Interaction via EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	30 min	12:00 – 12.30
	Break			*12.30 – 12:40*
5.	Session 5: Layout and functionalities of EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	20 min	12.40 – 13.00
6.	Session 6: Outreach	Group Discussion + Plenary	15 min	13.00 – 13.15
7.	Session 7: Summing up	Funnel discussion	15 min	13.15 – 13.30
8.	Session 8: Brief presentation of results from evaluation and concluding remarks	Plenary	15 min	13.30 – 13.45

For questions, please contact:
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PROGRAMME
EPALE FOCUS GROUP

1. BACKGROUND

The Electronic Learning Platform for Adults in Europe - EPALE - is a multilingual community with open membership for teachers, trainers, researchers, scientists, politicians and any other person who performs a professional role in adult education and learning throughout Europe.

EPALE is an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. The aim of the platform is to incentivise the sharing of content amongst professionals in adult education and to allow them to network and exchange ideas and knowledge.

The platform can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en

2. PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY

The study is conducted by Ramboll Management Consulting on behalf of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs and has the aim of assessing the impact of EPALE in the first two years of the platform's operations and to explore options for improvement of the platform.

The study has a dual purpose, namely to evaluate the effectiveness of EPALE and its achievements during the first two years of operation (i.e. from January 2015 to December 2016), and to propose possible improvements to the platform.

The study relies on the findings of desk research, national and European level interviews, and online questionnaire and focus groups with stakeholder.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY

The focus groups will concentrate on validating the preliminary results of the analysis conducted and, in particular, on gathering data from a forward looking perspective and assessing possible options for improving the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, added value and relevance of EPALE.

The focus groups will be conducted in three countries: Bulgaria, Malta and Italy.

4. FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS

4.1 Session 1: Introduction and 'ice-breaker' (30 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 1: Introduction and 'ice-breaker'	Plenary	10.30 – 11:00

Each participant presents themselves and reflects on the following questions:
- How often do you use EPALE?
- What do you find most useful on EPALE?
- What do you find least useful on EPALE?

4.2 Session 2: Relevance and added value of EPALE (20 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 2: Relevance and added value of EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	11.00 - 11.20

Discussion about the main challenges facing adult education in Europe and how EPALE responds to these challenges:
- Participants work in pairs to select the most relevant challenges for Italy and their relevance to the goals of EPALE.
- Plenary discussion about the conclusions of each pair.

4.3 Session 3: Themes and content on EPALE (30 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 3: Themes and content on EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	11.30 - 12.00

The participants are divided into groups. Ideally, each group will have a computer or tablet in front of them to work with the EPALE site.
- Presentation of EPALE themes and types of content;
- Group discussion on:
  - The topics included in EPALE;
  - Different types of content and materials;
  - Recommendations and ways to improve topics and content.
- Plenary discussion of the conclusions of each group.

4.4 Session 4: Interaction via EPALE (30 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 4: Interaction via EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	12:00 - 12:30

The participants are divided into groups. Ideally, each group will have a computer or tablet in front of them to work with the EPALE site.
- Presentation of options available for interaction between users via EPALE;
- Group discussion on:
  - Opportunities of interaction via the Communities of Practice, Blogs etc.
  - Opportunities of interaction via the Partner Search Tool.
- Plenary discussion of conclusions of each group.

4.5 Session 4: Layout and functionalities (20 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 5: Layout and functionalities of EPALE	Group Discussion + Plenary	12:40 - 13:00

The participants are divided into 3 groups. Each group will have a computer or tablet in front of them to work with the EPALE site.

- Group discussion on:
  - Design and functionality of EPALE (structure of the site, the possibilities of finding information, difficulties with registration, logging in, etc.);
  - Opportunities to further promote / disseminate EPALE information to stakeholders;
- Plenary discussion of the conclusions of each group.

4.6 Session 4: Outreach (15 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 6: Outreach	Group Discussion + Plenary	13.00 – 13.15

- Group discussion:
  - The best way to promote EPALE
- Plenary discussion of the conclusions of each group

4.7 Session 6: Outreach (15 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 6: Outreach	Group Discussion + Plenary	13.00 – 13.15

4.8 Session 7: Summing up (15 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 7: Summing up	Funnel discussion	13:15 – 13:30

Through a funnel-based discussion, participants chose the two most important possible improvements for EPALE.

4.9 Session 8: Brief presentation of results from evaluation and concluding remarks (15 min)

Session	Format	Time
Session 8: Brief presentation of results from evaluation and concluding remarks	Plenary	13:30 – 13:45

Presentation to participants on the results of the study so far compared with the results of the discussion.