

## **The CARMA Toolkit: A step-by-step guide for implementing collaborative learning to increase student motivation and participation**

### **What were the conditions and steps taken that have contributed most to the success of the measure?**

A range of different non-formal learning (NFL) techniques were selected by the NFL experts for inclusion in the Toolkit resource. The Reciprocal Maieutic Approach (RMA) of Danilo Dolci was also used as a basis for a week-long training with secondary school teachers. Implementation in classrooms took place in three stages:

- Collaborative learning and assessment sessions with students during school academic year 2016/2017 and learner progress was monitored.
- Demonstration workshops – Experts in NFL delivered workshops within the schools at key points in the piloting phase. At later stages in the year, they were able to show the progress in learning made by students.
- Collaborative assessment with students – Formative assessment with students using the RMA, focused the impact of the non-formal learning techniques being piloted on learner's motivation and engagement.

The Toolkit presents the different NFL techniques as practical resources for classroom delivery. It also shares the key steps in how the learning outcomes were designed in order for future schools to replicate the CARMA approach.

### **Which stakeholders were involved in identifying needs and in the planning and design of the measure?**

Key decision makers from the school communities, including school principals, parents, teacher educators, education staff and curriculum developers, school policy experts, policy makers from local and regional levels in the seven countries represented in the project.

### **Who was involved in implementing the measure?**

Twenty-eight secondary school teachers from across different teaching disciplines from Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

### **Who has key responsibility for implementation?**

School teachers with support from their school principals, colleagues, parents and the wider school community.

### **How are the different people involved in implementation being supported (e.g. do they receive specific training?)**

At the start of the project, school teachers received a five-day training course (European Workshop for Collaborative Competence of Teachers) led by the NFL experts from each of the seven countries in the project. Following the initial training, the CARMA partnership core project team (project managers and NFL experts from each country) acted as support guides throughout the piloting phase, and for the monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes, impact and results. An online group for teachers and experts was set up in order to share outcomes, ideas and peer learning support.

### **What have been the obstacles to introducing the measure? How have they been addressed?**

Some of the main challenges were related to:

- Time management in the classroom and occasional poor student behaviour,
- Time needed to explain methods that were unfamiliar for students
- Need for regular school leaders and parent support for effective for effective implement in classrooms

These challenges were addressed through continued application of collaborative lessons, and the development of an Inclusion Strategy Paper on lessons learned from the project implementation and recommendations for teachers, school managers and governments and policymakers.

### **Is there a monitoring/evaluation system in place?**

Pilot evaluation

#### **What is monitored?**

An evaluation phase with the direct and indirect target groups involved a monitoring and evaluation methodology using both quantitative as well as qualitative data to assess the outcomes, impact and results with all target groups of the project.

#### **Who monitors and how?**

Monitoring of impact on students - Data on the impact on students was collected by the teachers and some NFL experts and who took part or attended the RMA and non-formal learning sessions, and were evaluated by an external expert. The Reciprocal Maieutic Approach was used as an assessment tool for monitoring the learners progress and for monitoring the impact of the non-formal methods on the students. The teachers included the data on their students well-being, learning, motivation, engagement, class participation, attendance and enthusiasm in their diaries.

Data on the indirect impact of the project on other teaching staff, professionals and stakeholders' were collected

Evaluation with NFL Experts –the seven NFL experts who acted as support guides for the teachers at local level provided feedback at an evaluation meeting.

**Are further evaluation planned and when will the results be available?**

Results were collected within a series of final piloting and evaluation reports produced during the project, including the: CARMA overall piloting report, the Evaluation report for teachers, students and stakeholders, and the CARMA Evaluation report for Non-Formal Learning experts. All results are available online.

**What has been the impact of the measure?**

Approximately 70% of teachers highlighted the following areas of impact in the teaching diaries:

- Increased motivation and engagement of the students
- Increased classroom interaction
- Improvements in learning
- Increased teacher knowledge and competences in the use of non-formal learning methods for collaborative learning

**What resources are involved (material, space, amount of funding)?**

Beyond the initial investment in the project, those implementing the project will need time for training, integration of the project into practice, and monitoring of its impact.

**Is the measure still running? If not, why not?**

The 34-month project was completed in October 2018.

The CARMA Toolkit and copies of the Toolkit have been distributed across schools in Europe and made available as a free resource on the project website in 7 languages. Schools and the teachers participating in the project are continuing to deliver NFL techniques in their classrooms and are participating in follow-on projects and trainings on collaborative learning and NFL education using the CARMA Toolkit resource and supporting student and teacher assessment materials.

**Further info (website, contact person e-mail, organisation details)**

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