**GOERUDIO: Motivation and Innovation for Learning in Sciences**

**Prato, Italy**

**30 October 2015**

**Minutes**

**Participants**

The seminar has been attended by the following participants:

* 1 school director;
* 135 students from IP “F. Datini” (Prato, Italy), IPSIA “G. Marconi” (Prato, Italy) and ITES “P. Dagomari” (Prato, Italy)
* 9 teachers from 3 schools;
* 1 public authority representative;
* 3 Pixel representatives.

**Minutes**

The seminar has been held in IP “F. Datini” hospitality vocational school involved within Goerudio project activities. Its main aim was to promote the results of the project toward a broad sample of stakeholders even overcrossing the number of people directly involved in the production of project outcomes. This purpose has been totally achieved especially thanks to the participation of students and teachers coming from different schools or from other classes instead of those ones directly involved within the project activities.

The agenda of the seminar foresaw four short introductive speeches, but the core points of the event was the testimonials made by teachers and students with regard to their experience within the project activities. Free time was left for spontaneous interventions by the attendees.

The seminar was opened by Daniele Santagati’s speech (hosting school director). He welcomed the participants and praised Goerudio project for the good results achieved. His speech focused on the contribution given by Goerudio project to the efforts that the school is carrying out for the innovation of teaching methodologies especially in the field of scientific subjects. Indeed, IP “F. Datini” school is very active since long time in proposing a holistic didactical approach bringing together not only humanistic and scientific subjects, but also different disciplines within the scientific field. Unfortunately, the efforts made in this direction do not always bring the expected results and the participation to projects like the Goerudio one is meaningful with regard to its contribution to enforce the overall strategy of the school toward this issue.

Lorenzo Martellini from Pixel highlighted the importance of European projects for schools especially in Italy because of the lack of national funding opportunities. As one of the main opportunities for schools, she presented the features of the Erasmus+ programme with regard to its main aims to:

* Reduce early school leaving
* Increase attainment in tertiary education
* Improve employability and support entrepreneurship
* Improve quality, innovation, internationalization of education
* Enhance cross-sector strategic partnership
* Promote social cohesion and active citizenship

Laura Capella from USR Liguria (Regional Branch of the Ministry of Education in Liguria region) provided an overview of the main stream at national level in the field of education. She attended all the workshops with the teachers organised in Italy in the framework of Goerudio project. And, as highlighted during these events, Goerudio has proposed a pioneering approach helpful for fulfilling the most recent requirements of the Italian Ministry especially in the field of scientific subjects.

Giovanni Caruso from Pixel made a summary of the project presenting the activities carried out during last two years and the main results achieved during this time. His speech aimed to present an overview of the project activities to the seminar participants in order to make them accustomed with what they would have been going to hear during the following speeches.

Giovanni Caruso’s one was the last participation of the introductive part of the seminar. Therefore, the stage was passed to teachers and students for sharing their experiences.

Anna Luise from IP “F. Datini” made a summary of her whole experience within the project. She mentioned the gathering of teachers’ and students’ experiences, the review of the initiatives and the production of educational resources. She focused her attention on the presentation of the Goerudio method. Her speech became actually a training session on the Goerudio method for those who were participating at the seminar without having practised with our project. She presented all the models produced by her students in the framework of the project. These educational products are addressed to upper secondary school students between 16 and 17 years old. The general aim of the educational models is to illustrate a scientific concept through an image that has been chosen by a student. Once the model has been developed, the student presents it to the classmates asking for their opinion about the usability of the model itself. The discussion, moderated by the teacher, is a training moment and a good opportunity for him to explain the scientific concept and also evaluate the students’ interaction.

Afterwards, it was the turn of three students from IP “F. Datini”. They presented the implementation of activities inspired by Goerudio project from their point of view. This section was the most meaningful one of the seminar because the students indirectly gave their feedback and evaluation on the project activities and their comments were totally positive. Their motivation and their willing towards learning scientific subjects were positively affected by these experiences. Therefore we can say that the projected achieved the expected results.

In spite of the agenda, Laura Capelli asked for another speech. Her intervention has been inspired to students’ contribution. Teachers and professionals have always been sceptic towards the methodology proposed by Goerudio project, whereas students’ answer has been enthusiastic with regard to this innovative method for approaching scientific subjects. This is the main reason why also she changed her mind on Goerudio models and she is sure that a deeper practice can improve this methodology bringing good results overcoming the main difficulties the students find in this learning field.

At this stage of the seminar, Marco Manzuoli took the floor replacing Roberto Bellocci. The aim of his speech was to present Not Only Fair Play project (founded by European Commission under the Programme Erasmus+). The project aims to the promotion of social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of physical activity, through increased participation in, and equal access to sport for all.

At the end of the seminar, Giovanni Caruso from Pixel made a final speech thanking all the speakers for the active contributions and all the participants for the kind attention. Drawing the conclusion of the event, he highlighted the main subjects dealt with during the seminar. Once again besides the workshops, an event organised in the framework of Goerudio project allowed to share comments and opinions about a broader set of subjects with respect to those ones directly touched by the project activities. Even the group of people reached by this event has been more numerous that those ones involved within the project activities. This seminar has been also useful to get people acquainted with the resources available on Goerudio portal and with the teaching methodologies inspired by the project activities. This is the reason why we can think that thanks to this seminar the number of the people that take advantages through the project activities and result will increase in the near future.

At the very end, Daniele Santagati took the floor for thanking all the participants for their inspiring contributions and for inviting all teachers and a representative of students to a buffet prepared by the students of the hosting school during their cooking classes.