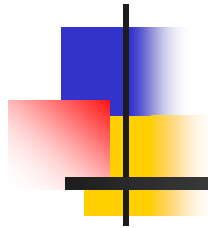




*the* Learning Teacher Network

# Making A Difference

**Success and Sustainability  
in International Networking**



**Magnus Persson**

The IPVC International Week

2 May 2011

Viana do Castelo, Portugal

# The Learning Teacher Network - 9 years of success

the Learning Teacher Network



Awarded by the European Commission the European Gold Award 2009  
as best project within the Lifelong Learning Programme/category Comenius

# Overview

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- Rationale
- An international platform for professional debate
- Network development and progression
- Collaboration, empowerment, network expressions
- Sustainability

## *Conferencing*





# The network

## ● Comenius 3 Network

- 2003-2006, funded by the European Commission
- 26 partner institutions from 10 countries

## ● Non-profit educational association

- Since 2006
- International, independent membership based network with own funding
- 120 institutional and individual members from 29 countries in Europe and beyond
- Covering all levels of education and training



# A European platform

- Providing an international forum of professionals, embracing a holistic view on education and concerned with professional development in education and training
- Performing as a European platform for professional debate on learning, the new role of the teacher within the three mission areas

*From the network's statutes*

# Covering education and training

- Multinational
- Multicultural
- Cross-level in education and training
- Cross-disciplinary

*Bridging/linking and exchanging  
knowledge and experience  
to improve teaching and learning  
and to portray best practice*



## *Learning*





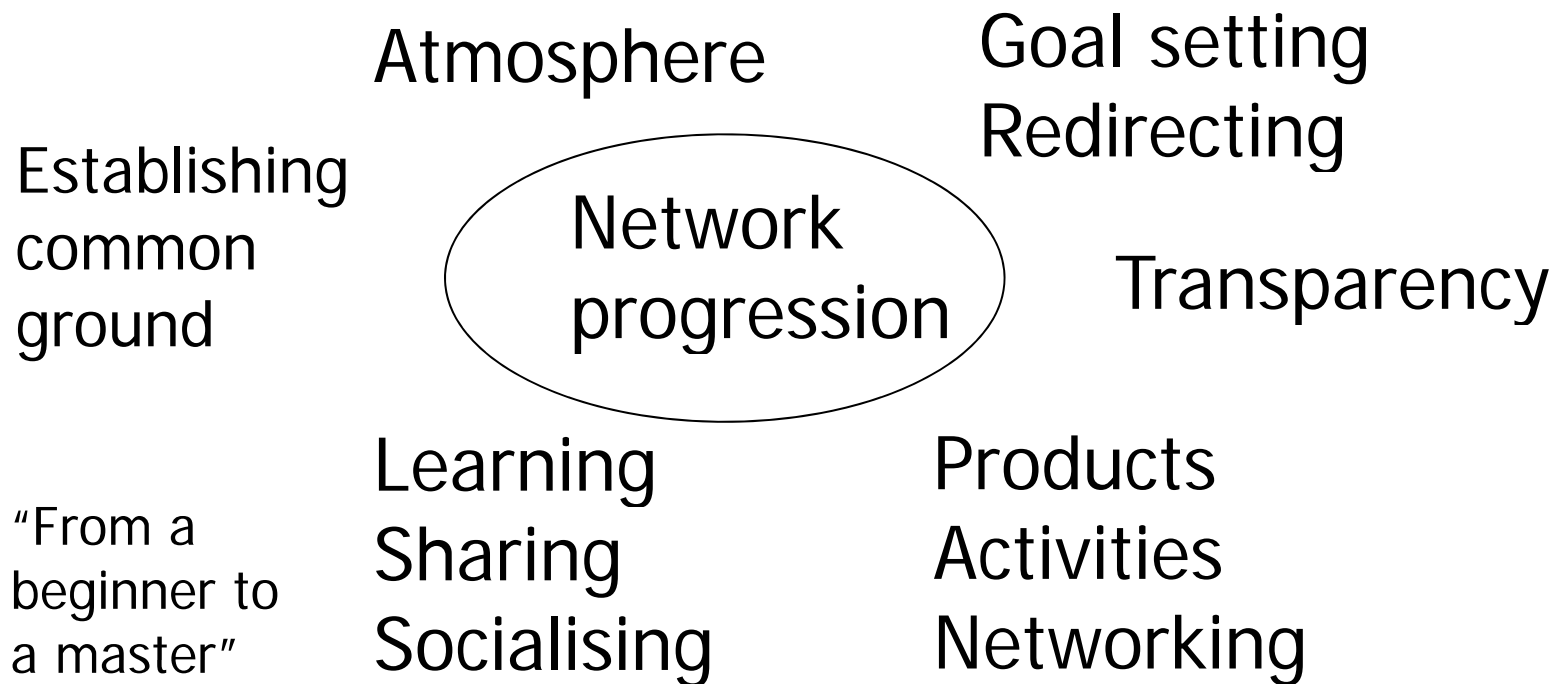
# A journey of empowerment

- The growth of individuals as well as of the network
  - from a beginner to a master
- The progression of network activities
  - from searching steps to jointly mastering complex tasks
- Create good, trustful relations
  - from caution and see 'how the land lies' to trust, respect, openness and fun within the European dimension

# Network characteristics

- Trust, respect and fun
- Learning and sharing
- Recognition of the added value
- Action and result orientation
- Deliver as promised and agreed
- "Responding coordination"
- The network makes a difference

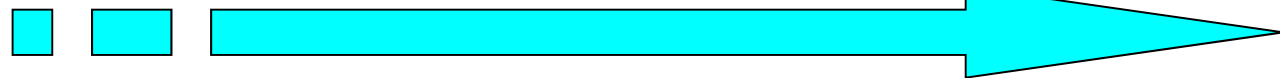
# "Trust, respect and fun"



*Creating*

*Maintaining*

*Sustaining*



*Progression in organisation, actions and outcomes*

## *Socialising*





# Securing the network

- A partnership based on equality
- The common ground
- Creating the “good atmosphere”
  - “Euroenglish and learning
  - New friends and sharing
  - Another round and interacting
  - Brain breaks and reflecting”

- The social part is as crucial as the work part
- Transparency, honesty and admitting mistakes
- "Each one counts"
- The shared responsibility for process and outcomes; confidence building – self-esteem - "we can do it!"

# Ensure individual satisfaction

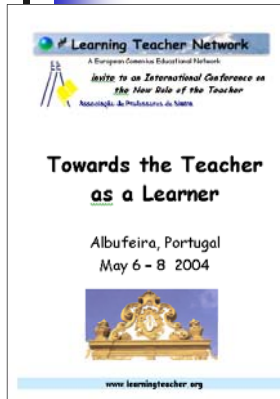
- to feel comfortable in participating
- to feel confident
- to feel free to talk and to express views and feelings
- to be able to verbalise own ideas and compromise with others
- to combine work with having fun

*Ensure full inclusion of each individual*

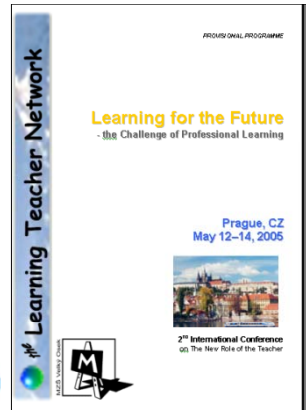
*10 recommendations to the Commission  
and the educational community*

## Products 2003-2006

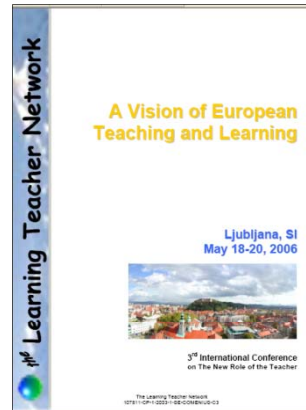
the Learning Teacher Network



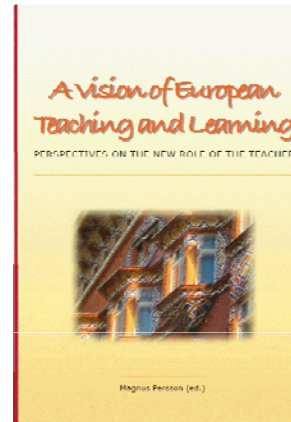
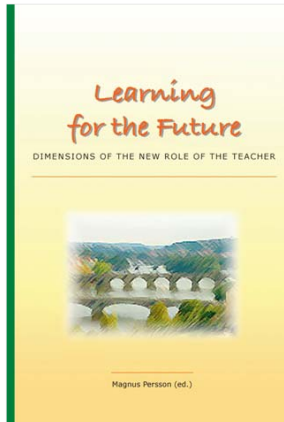
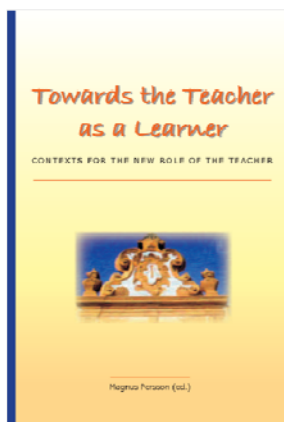
Albufeira, PT  
2004



Prague, CZ  
2005

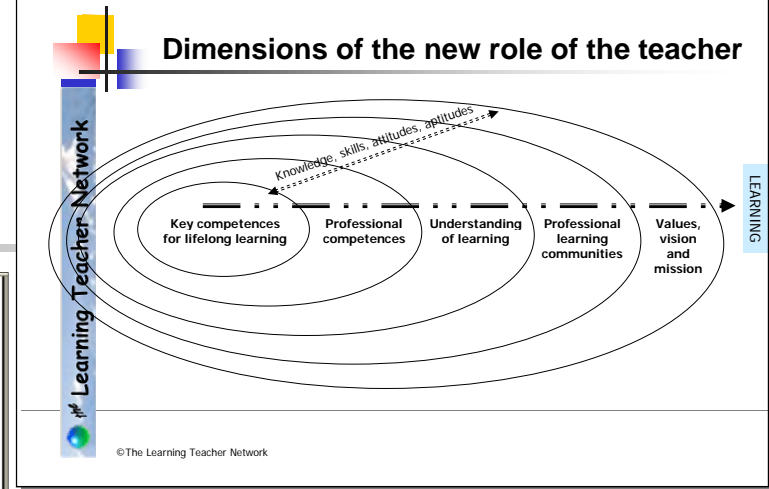


Ljubljana, SI  
2006



[www.learningteacher.eu](http://www.learningteacher.eu)

## A Framework



*Annual international  
conferences*

*Trilogy of books*

*Contact  
seminars*

*Courses*

*New projects*



## *Doing*

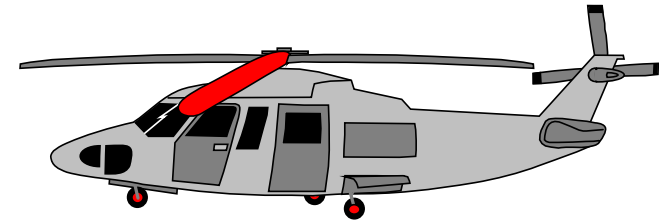


# Why did we continue?

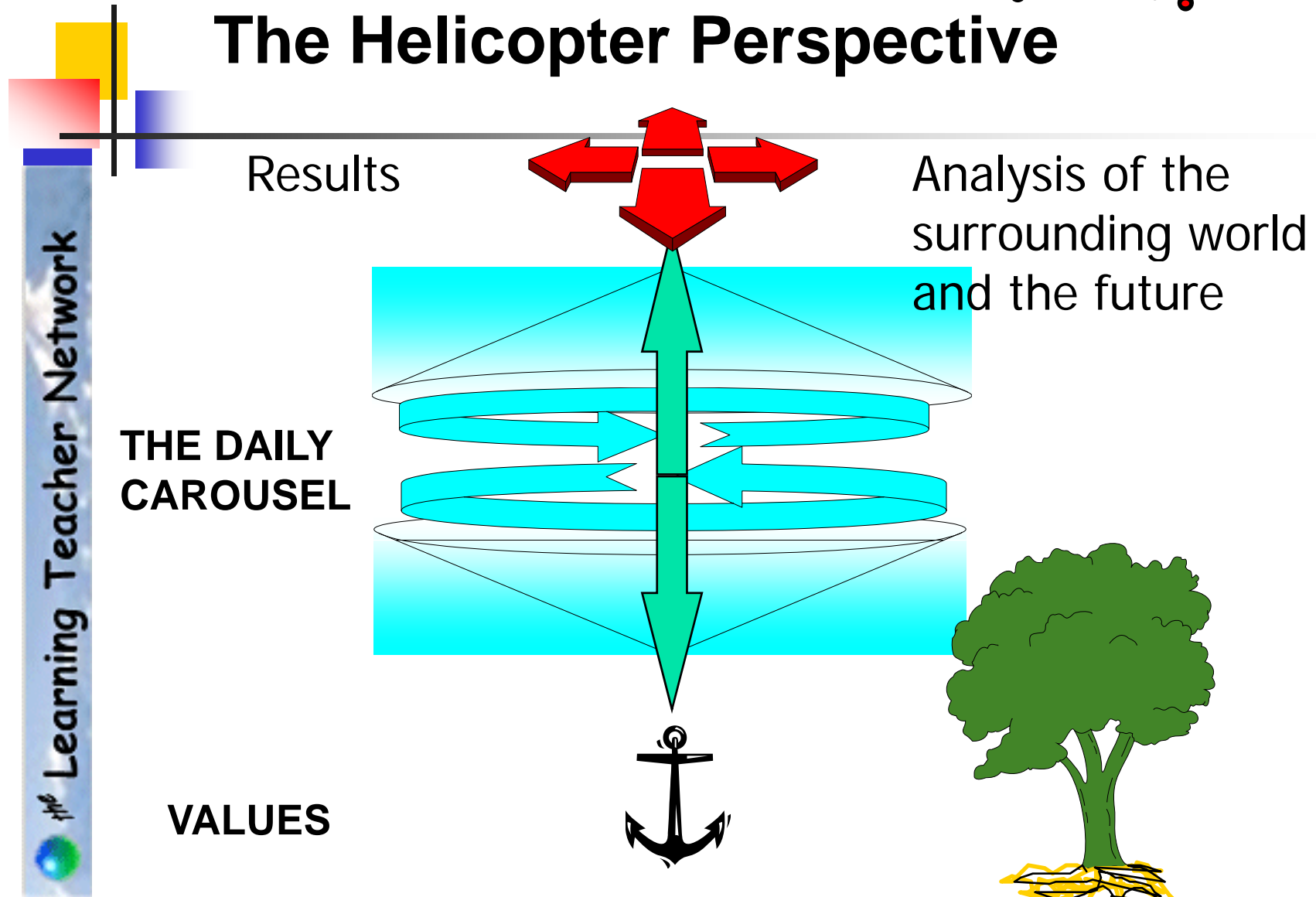
- Achieving something unique to us
- Breaking new ground
- Products of value to us and others
- Opportunity to be pro-active
- Added value – the European dimension
- Benefiting from the investment in time and energy
- Having a structure suitable to be used for long term purposes
- Appreciation of the personal and professional friendship

# "Creative pro-activity"

- The ability to see and understand societal and educational trends
- The knowledge of European policy-making
- The young generation today will be the policy makers and the definers of society tomorrow
- The helicopter perspective



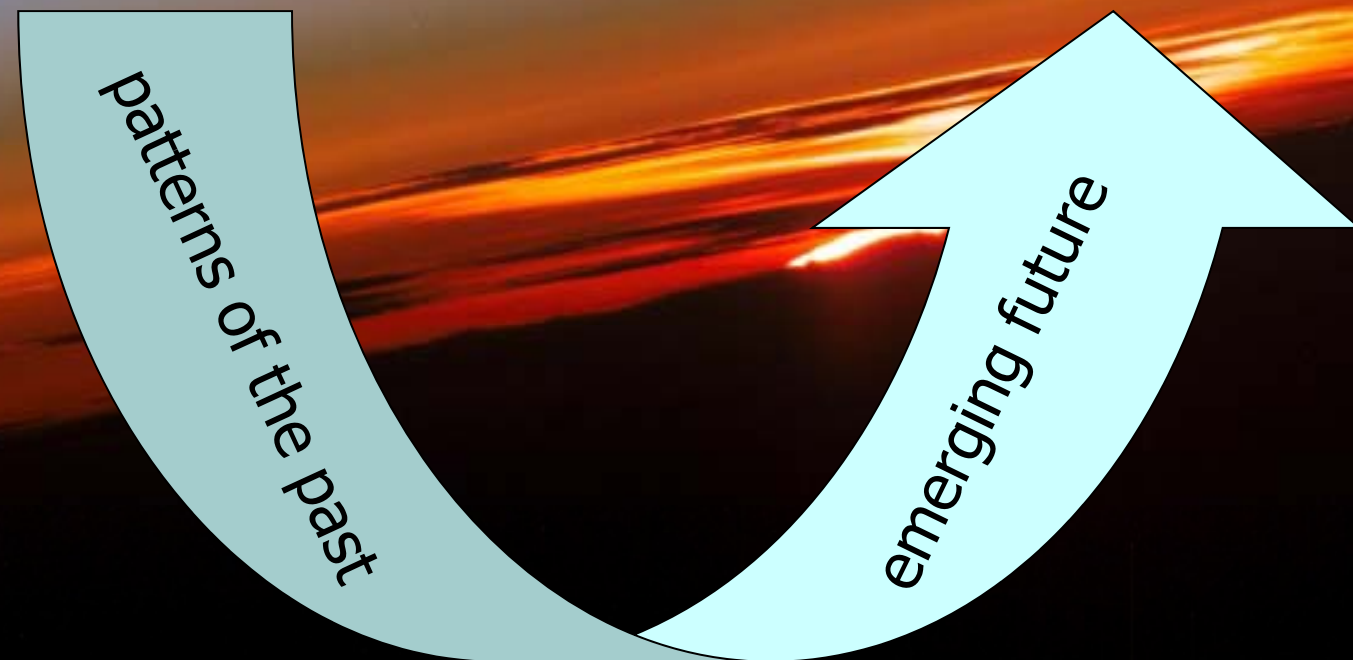
# The Helicopter Perspective





# Learning from an emerging future

- Project progression
- Pro-activity and creativity
- Culture, dimensions and imagination



## Strategy for ...

- long term partnership: the format, the key activities, the financing, and the leadership
- partnership growth: as to quantity; but take qualitative advantage also of the partners' growing knowledge and self esteem
- progression: inclusion of new or refined elements and activities
- new input: include new members, peers, colleagues, course leaders, speakers... with full inclusion

# Working formats

- International conferences and courses
- Publications
- Committees and editorial boards
- Working groups (e.g. university sub network and school leader network)
- Networking; projects; organic groups
- Developing a new virtual, internal communication platform (2011)

# Embraces three missions

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- Education for all
  - Education for lifelong learning
  - Education for sustainable development (ESD)
- \*\*\*
- Working with the EU Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)
  - Network focussing: “Vision 2014”

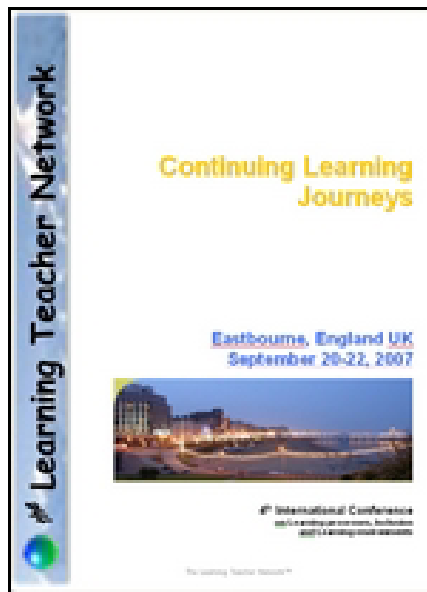
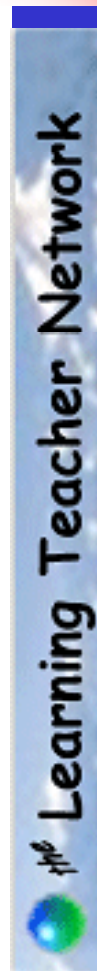


## *Sharing*

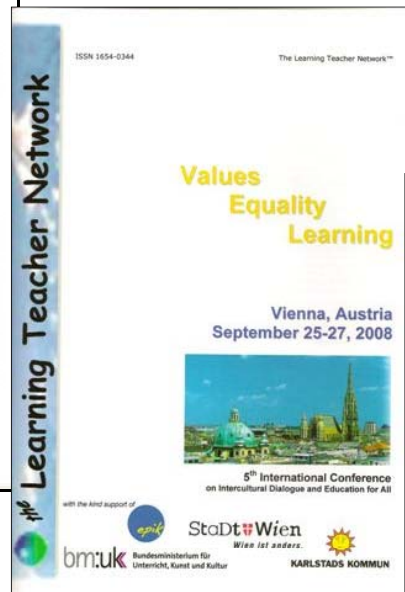


# Current main expressions since 2007

## - Annual international conferences



Eastbourne UK  
2007



Vienna  
2008



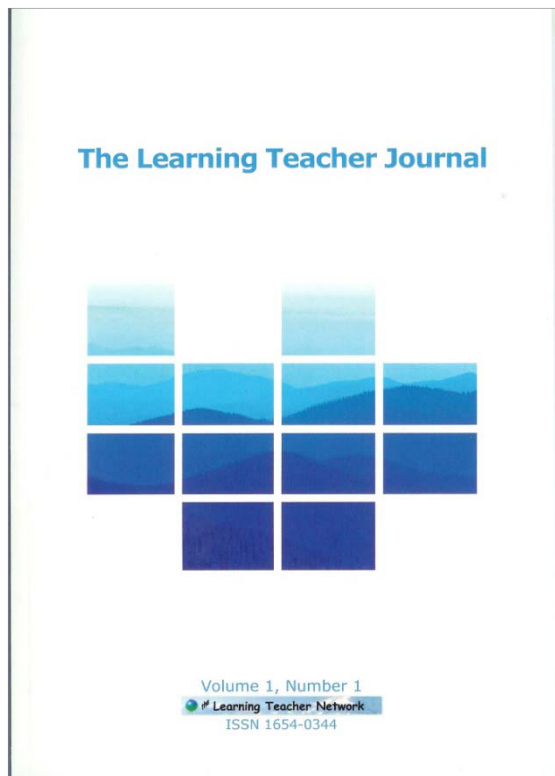
Ljubljana 2009



Berlin  
Jan 2011

# Current main expressions since 2007

## - The Learning Teacher Journal



*"The Learning Teacher Journal is a peer refereed journal with strong European and International Links which publishes research and advanced professional development by educational practitioners engaged in teaching and learning"*

An academic journal  
with an editor  
and an editorial board



# Current main expressions since 2010

## - The Learning Teacher Magazine



*The Learning Teacher Magazine 2010*

An illustrated quarterly magazine  
with an editor and an editorial board

# **Current main expressions - European training courses**

## **Creativity and Learning**

- \* Kamena Vourla Greece, October 2010  
SE-2010-125-001
- \* Sliema, Malta, October 2011  
SE-2011-135-001

## **Inspiring Leadership**

- \* Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 2010  
SE-2010-115-001

## **Planning for 2012**

Creativity and Learning; Inspiring Leadership;  
Social Media; and a Contact Seminar



## *Training*



EU Training Course SE-2010-125-001  
Kamena Vourla, Greece 5-9 October 2010

# Keys to success and sustainability

- The “atmosphere”/climate within the network: “trust, respect and fun”
- The composition: the full range of professionals in education and training
- The management and leadership
- The stability in high quality products and activities
- The ability to progress, take new steps and produce new activities
- The addressing and inclusion of front-line issues and the “helicopter perspective”

# Priorities and advantages

- Embracing international perspectives
- Creating knowledge and understanding
- Learning and sharing
- Contact, partnership and project building
- “Early warning” and front-line issues
- Finding solutions
- Close to EU policy making



# Sustaining the network

- Build on and keep the good conditions achieved (as described above)
- Consolidate the added value from the multicultural, European dimension - its benefits, and the learning and sharing from this
- Remain a player on the European stage, continue to be pro-active when launching course/materials/other end products
- Appreciation of the leadership team

## *Interacting*





## Please do not

- neglect the inner life of the project
- undermine your partners' interest in the project
- lose track of the European dimension
- let the project goals obstruct the view of wider perspectives
- wait until the end to reflect of the possibilities that lie beyond the project

**... but:**

- Use your project's full potential in people, knowledge, alliances and various ways of funding
- Never hesitate to ask existing networks or more experienced projects for advice or support

## *Uniting*





# The network welcomes you

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Website: [www.learningteacher.eu](http://www.learningteacher.eu)

[www.facebook.com/learningteachernetwork](http://www.facebook.com/learningteachernetwork)

[http://twitter.com/LTN\\_Network](http://twitter.com/LTN_Network)

E-mail

[info@learningteacher.eu](mailto:info@learningteacher.eu)

[magnus.persson@karlstad.se](mailto:magnus.persson@karlstad.se)





#### WELCOME TO JOIN THE NETWORK



The Learning Teacher Network is an international platform for educational development and progress in education and training in Europe.

#### CREATIVITY AND LEARNING



Welcome to register for the European training course "Creativity and Learning" (SE-2011-135-001) in Malta on 18-22 October 2011.

#### THE LEARNING TEACHER MAGAZINE



The Learning Teacher Magazine (ISSN 2000-2610) is an illustrated magazine, published four times a year. Read about best practice in teaching and learning.