



The SEE Project Evaluation Learning Raid to Turkey 07-11th November 2016

Introduction

The SEE Project Learning Raid in Turkey was evaluated in a number of ways in order to assess whether the activity had the impact envisaged and whether staff left equipped to introduce activities and disseminate to and influence teachers and learners in their respective countries.

Capademy (Cappadocia Training Academy) constructed a programme with background reading. The draft programme was sent to all partners and delegates. The host had previously received a questionnaire from each delegate as to what they would like included during the learning raid.

During the raid feedback was obtained from delegates as to their experience on one activity. This was the visit to the Teknopark and the Business Start Up Incubation Centre.

Finally, an evaluation questionnaire was completed by delegates at the end of the programme.

One of the aims of the evaluation was to include action research in the methodology in order to make any necessary changes for future practice and activity.

The following is the expectation from the learning raid as outlined in the project narrative.

Learning raids

Staff from partner countries will visit hosting country and learn from the practice there. This will be through observation/shadowing/lecture/workshop/discussion and other methods.

All learning raids will be interactive and afford those attending the opportunity to experience what works well in other countries and gain the background knowledge and experience as to how this happens. It is expected that staff will replicate these techniques in their own vocational settings.

Institutions hosting learning raids will be carefully chosen. They will be selected by partners at the preparatory stage of the project when they audit practice in their region. They will include vocational schools, employers, and institutions of higher education, training organisations and projects where best practice exists.

The learning raid will aim to provide examples of excellence but also challenge the practice and approaches of participants. They will aim to provide innovation and showcase excellence.

Young people will participate in the hosting and learning.

Participants will be expected to produce an action plan at the end of the raid as to what they will implement in their own country and by when.



The hosting institution will issue certificates to all participants to certify their participation and to indicate topics of education.

The feedback from the evaluation is as follows:

Expectations from Delegates.

6 delegates attended from the Czech Republic, 5 from Ireland, 6 from the UK and 4 from The Netherlands. Here is a synopsis of their expectations.

Czech Republic

I would like to visit a local university, high school and grammar school.

I am interested in the way teachers manage to attract students to the technical subjects.

Obtain new knowledge about the Turkish education system.

I would like to visit some secondary schools and university or institutions that cooperate with them.

I would like to visit schools and learn more about system of education in Turkey.

Have the possibility to observe the classes will be appreciated.

I will be interested in attractive methods of teaching STEM which could be passed to teachers in my region.

Understand the challenges of teaching technical subjects (engineering, science) in different educational institutions.

I want to get an overview of what are the approaches to STEM in Turkey.

Ireland

I want a firsthand knowledge of how education and industry interact in Turkey.

I would like an understanding of the education system in Turkey.

I would like to spend time in the company of local teachers and learn from their experiences.

I would like to visit some educational institutions as well as some local industry with close links to local educational institutions.

I hope to gain an insight into STEM activities in schools and colleges in the Cappadocia Region, observe best practice with a view to implementing successful strategies in GTI.

I would like to visit schools, colleges and universities as well as some local industry or meet with local industry representatives.

I am interested in observing STEM Education in Turkey.



It would be great to see how Turkish schools work with their local industry partners.

I would like to visit as many I.T institutions as possible.

I am very curious about applied learning in Turkey and how they assist in the applied learning approach.

I would also like to visit classroom environments in a different cultural area.

UK

I hope to gain a wider understanding of how education establishments engage young people in creative ways especially those from troubled backgrounds or those on the fringe of society or are low achievers.

I would like to visit an alternative education provider/ pupil referral unit or a similar establishment that works with vulnerable or young people that present challenging behaviour.

Find out some new approaches to STEM learning.

Visit a university and local businesses and how see they use STEM and technology.

Discover information on best STEM practice in Turkey and examples of activities and resources I may be able to replicate.

I would like to visit schools, vocational settings, an employer, and a university if possible.

Look at how education systems work in other countries.

Find out how STEM is supported and developed through the key stages.

Find out how education establishments use technology and adapt to the technological advances being made.

Visit secondary schools to look at their success.

Visit universities and companies who link in with secondary schools- maybe apprenticeship providers

Find out about the Turkish education system.

Visit Schools, colleges (or equivalent) and universities – observing lessons, speaking to young people about their career aspirations, examples of work they've done with local employers and details of their work placement programmes.

Visit companies in different industries – to explore their recruitment process and how/if they support schools and young people.

Find out how schools see the benefits of engagement with Further Education and different methods of delivering the STEM agenda.

Visit University / Colleges / Schools (Basic Education) / Technical and Vocational Schools 14-17.

Visit/find out about anything related to the Built Environment, Chemistry and Physics or Technology.



The Netherlands

Discover the way other countries work and learn on the following subjects: economic development in general and particularly addressing inequalities for young women and people from minority communities and those with disabilities.

Find out about lifelong learning together with trade and industry and teachers.

Mainly visit organisations in trade/ industry and health and community colleges.

Look at how trade and industry are involved in modernising curricula, learning materials, teacher training and assessments.

I want to learn about the input given by industry in the curricula of vocational education and to compare with our approach.

To learn and see how technical education is promoted and organized in Turkey. Also, to experience the Turkish vision on education and how it is implemented.

To learn what groups or minorities need extra attention on their chances in technical education.

I would like to visit technical vocational schools as well as technical companies.

I hope to find out about best practice in STEM by classroom observation/shadowing/lecture/workshop/discussion and other methods.

Visit a range of vocational schools, employers, and institutions of higher education, training organisations and projects where best practice exists including of course the host institution.

Evaluation of Activity at Teknopark Business Incubation Centre

During the raid a workshop and tour was provided at Teknopark by Ibrahim Cetiner and the entrepreneurship co-ordinator Mehmet Yagcioglu. This comprised a short tour of facilities and then a detailed visit to the Incubation Centre facilities and an in-depth discussion and look at the methodologies used. The motto of the centre is "from idea to business. Here are the views that delegates expressed about their visit to the incubation centre.

Delegates were asked 8 questions and then asked to grade the visit with 1 being the highest and 4 the lowest. They were then asked to make comments.

15 said the standard of presentations were very good, 5 said they were good.

16 said the content was very clear, 4 said it was good.

17 said the support and advice offered was very good, 3 said it was good.

16 said the presentations were very helpful, 4 said they were good.



No materials were provided and so the question on this was not completed by delegates.
15 thought the organization was very good, 4 thought it was good and 1 did not think it was good.
15 thought the choice of venue and facilities was very good, 4 thought they were good, 1 did not think it was a good choice of venue or facilities.
In terms of overall rating 15 delegates give the visit the highest ranking possible, 4 give it a good rating, 1 ranked it on the border of the highest and second highest rating.

Comments made included:

The guide was very enthusiastic and gave me a lot of inspiration.
Fantastic service offered to young entrepreneurs.
A very worthwhile event.
The brainstorming room was superb.
Thank you Ramazan and Tuncay for this excellent visit.
An inspirational event.
The guide was clear and enthusiastic.
We were not provided with any materials, water or time to use facilities.
Made great contacts for future projects.
The model for creating young entrepreneurs was exemplary.
Excellent venue with an open-door approach.
Would have liked to chat to some young entrepreneurs.

The overall evaluation

All delegates completed a detailed evaluation at the end of the Learning Raid

Here is a synopsis of what they said:

- **Has your knowledge and skills been enhanced?**

We had some good practice in STEM related exercises. Very useful to use in my own country in Robotics and Physics.

The training day enhanced my skills and knowledge which I could transfer in primary/secondary education.



Lots of ideas to use from the Teknopark visit in business classes.
Ideas on how to develop after school clubs from the gifted and talented activities.
Will greatly enhance my work around enterprise and entrepreneurship.
Better appreciation of different techniques in the classroom and the use of handheld technology.
Content will benefit my teaching and mentoring of students.
Yes, lots of information. Nice workshops on health and technology.
Improved English.
I learnt about Robotics and Engineering and Healthcare.
I will endeavour to use what I learnt to teach App development in the field of entrepreneurship.
The training day provided me with ideas to use with students.
A greater understanding of how STEM subjects are delivered through applied learning.
GTI will invest in some of the robotic resources/materials and implement some of the ideas from the Teknopark.
I have new information on the Turkish education system.
Knowledge of use of technology-phones, tablets etc. enhanced.
Support to students through teacher subject clusters at breaks to answer questions is something to replicate.
I liked the Applied Learning methods used at Altinyildiz High School - using t-shirts to explain chromosomes.
The presentations at Abdullah Gul University (AGU) were inspiring.
My soft skills were enhanced (organisational skills/language skills).
Private school and school for gifted and talented were very interesting.

- **Where your expectations fulfilled?**

My expectations were completely fulfilled.
Partly. I did not find out about motivating factors for young people to study STEM.
Fulfilled.
Yes. I am very impressed with the approaches used in education and the clear aspiration of Turkish Institutions.
Everything fulfilled but it would have been good to see more state schools.
My expectations were fulfilled.
I wanted to observe STEM in Action in Turkey. This was fulfilled to a very high standard and exceeded expectations.
Fulfilled, I will share new ideas with other colleagues.



It was an amazing visit. I learnt a lot from a cultural and professional point of view.
I will return home with new ideas for my teaching. Certainly, my expectations were fulfilled.
All expectations exceeded.
The quality of presentations at the university exceeded all expectations.
I wanted to observe teaching styles. I have been able to do this.
I wanted to learn about the Turkish school system and to see good practice. Both were fulfilled.

- **What will you do next?**

Workshops for trainers at home.
Share experience.
Use inspiration from the Teknopark in business challenges including getting a product to market.
Cascade information to specialist functions on the role of the Teknopark incubation centre.
The enterprise ideas at Teknopark will be shared.
Use robotics activity for outreach work.
Develop University links.
Share information.
Develop the university talks for my careers work with students.
Develop internships with the AGU university.
Use LinkedIn to maintain contacts.
Develop some more projects.
Will disseminate through social media and presentations to staff.
I will get students actively learning by doing projects together.
I have exchanged emails with many I met and will actively follow this up.
The incubation hub will be in GTI's future strategy.
Dissemination to the wider GRETB organisation.
New teaching techniques for Biology will be used in my lessons.
The brainstorming room is a good idea I can use.
Inform school governors and staff.
We plan a further KA2 to build on this one.
I would like to establish co-operation with the Altinyildiz High School.
I will find a way to include the good practice I learned in my teaching.



Summary

From the analysis of the evaluation there is no doubt that delegates enjoyed and learnt a significant amount on the learning raid. The clear majority of positive feedback was on the training day and the activities used, the visit to the Teknopark and the afternoon at the AGU University with the lectures provided. However, many other aspects of the learning raid were mentioned such as the school visits and the opportunities for observations and indeed some of the techniques used in the institutions. This quote from one delegate seemed to sum up the Abdullah Gul University activity.

“I knew this would be a great cultural visit but the quality of the presentations on Wednesday exceeded all expectations”.

Another said how they would adapt the presentations to fit their careers advisory work.

In relation to the Teknopark visit one delegate said

“Super visit, Inspiring. Made great contacts for future projects. The model for creating young entrepreneurs was exemplary. Ibrahim is an inspiration”.

All delegates felt the raid was well organised. The learning raid endeavoured to address the previous evaluation from The Netherlands which asked for teaching observations to be included in this one and to look at education/business type links. The programme delivered well on this. One delegate had asked to attend a specialist unit and this was addressed through the more able centre visit and activity. A small number of delegates mentioned they would have liked to have visited a state school as well as private institutions.

This learning raid has certainly built on the success of the training provided in the first 3 raids and addressed any gaps. The training provided was evaluated as very good as was the in-depth evaluation of the Teknopark visit.

Most delegates made a commitment to stay in contact and some even planned future projects.

There is no doubt from the evidence in this feedback that delegates were appreciative and learnt a lot. This is a strong partnership, where colleagues largely work well together and respect each other's views. They are keen to learn from others, to hear other views and are receptive to new ideas. The atmosphere was relaxed and professional.



Schedules were adhered to, the pace seemed right. It was a very full programme Questions and discussions were encouraged.

Delegates seemed to appreciate very much the efforts the organisers made to provide activities beyond the formal programme including restaurants and a cultural tour.

21 people attended the learning raid and received certificates of attendance. 20 attended the training day.

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