



The SEE Project Evaluation Learning Raid to Czech Republic 20-24th March 2017

Introduction

The SEE Project Learning Raid in the Czech Republic was evaluated through an evaluation questionnaire completed by delegates 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.

Zlinsky kraj constructed a programme with background reading. The draft programme was sent to all partners and delegates. The host had previously received a questionnaire from delegates as to what they would like included during the learning raid.

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.

A small focus group was also conducted with 4 delegates who attended the Czech Republic learning raid. The results of this are reported on in appendix A.

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:

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?**

The training event enhanced my knowledge and skills.

I enhanced my ideas for curriculum planning in my institution and increasing company links.

Lesson structure and play based learning contributed to my knowledge and skills.

Innovation in robotics and employer links provided excellent examples for improvements

I witnessed new methods of teaching and ideas which I will use.

I will implement the training approach in my work.

Inquiry based scientific education is very transferable.

I will use practices learnt in my mathematics teaching.

EBL will be used by myself in teaching.

I gained much information and was made aware of new approaches in education.

3d printing and Robotic technologies were highly impressive

School/company links impressed on me the value of this collaborative approach.

The pedagogy in the secondary school inspired me.

Cooperation and communication improved by what I saw.

I will investigate how I can use the IBSE method of teaching in my programming lessons.

Some interesting approaches- no clocks in the classrooms, teaching in the corridors, experiential learning.

The cooperation between schools and companies was inspiring.



- **Where your expectations fulfilled?**

My expectations were absolutely fulfilled.

Yes. I wanted to experience how technical education is organised and delivered at different levels.

Yes, I wanted to see the education system and STEM activities.

Yes.

I had no expectations.

Absolutely I liked the programme and my expectations were fulfilled.

My expectations were fulfilled.

My expectations were fulfilled about STEM education.

No.

I would have liked to see more implementation about STEM.

Expectations surpassed.

Yes. Very interesting. The school/employer links and the overview of the Czech Rep education system was very good.

What I saw exceeded my expectations.

The research orientated workshop was superb and exceeded expectations.

An excellent and rewarding event. Well done to the organising team. A great way to end a perfect project.

Leaving I feel extremely informed.

Fully fulfilled. Some fascinating work.

Exceeded my expectations in terms of ideas I can apply in my teaching and extra curriculum work.

Yes

All fulfilled. New ideas and best practice.

- **What will you do next?**

Will undertake dissemination and use the training technique in my work

I will consider the impact of robotics on work and future careers.

Dissemination at a staff meeting.

I will implement techniques in my teaching and make stronger links with companies.

I will demonstrate ideas to colleagues for teaching and introduce more play based learning.



Produce a slide show for dissemination purposes.
A short report to my head of department.
Implement ideas in my own teaching.
Training for part time tutors.
Write a newsletter article.
The IBS method will be shared across the college particularly in ICT, Electronics, and Maths departments.
Student exchanges.
More active learning, more experiential learning for students and more company involvement.
I will create a more active classroom. The traffic card system to indicate understanding by students is something I will introduce.
I am planning an international co-operation.
I will share ideas with colleagues.
I will introduce new techniques through my technology teaching.
I will try to influence policy makers.
I will through Theo.
I will try to organise a teacher exchange programme with business teachers.
I will share my experience.
I saw many practical examples to share.

Summary

27 delegates completed evaluations. This was the biggest group of all the learning raids and had the most diverse range of delegates.

Despite this challenge 25 delegates reported a very fulfilling and outstanding experience with lots of good practice, methodologies, and examples they could introduce in their own institution. 1 delegate would have liked to see a little more STEM activity and one reported that their expectations were not fulfilled.

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 links between companies and schools and some of the pedagogy used in the schools This quote from one delegate seemed to sum up the training event.

“The research orientated teaching workshop was superb and exceeded expectations.”

Another said

“The training gave me ideas to create a more active classroom with the students using IBSE to teach science related subjects”.

All delegates felt the raid was well organised.

One notable feature about this learning raid was how delegates enthused about the pedagogy they witnessed and how innovative aspects of the curriculum were.

“The things I will implement in my teaching will be stepping back and being a guide. I will also include more play based learning similar to what I observed”

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 the efforts very much that the organiser made to provide activities beyond the formal programme including restaurants and a cultural event.

27 people attended the learning raid and received certificates of attendance. 30 attended the training day including 3 Czech delegates.

B Martin/Ian Crawford

06/05/2017



Appendix A

The SEE Project Evaluation Focus Group April 2017

Introduction

As part of the project evaluation the lead partner for evaluation undertook an exercise with a group of participants who had attended more than 1 learning raid to gather in more detail the impact of the project on them personally and their institution.

4 staff one from each partner attending the Czech Rep learning raid in March 2017 were identified for this activity. Each was then contacted afterwards and asked to complete an online questionnaire which was analysed by SES13-19 Ltd the evaluation lead.

The questionnaire aimed to identify benefits the project had produced institutionally and personally for the individual but also to gather a view on the content including highlights and improvements that could be made for future projects.

In total these staff had participated in 9 learning raids and 3 of them had contributed to hosting learning raids in their own country. Their knowledge of the project was very rich.

In total 5 questions were asked in the questionnaire. Here is a summary of the responses.

What impact do you think the SEE Project has had on your institution?

Staff reported having broadened their vision on the delivery of STEM education largely. By visiting other countries and observing how education is delivered they said that this gave them more insight on the topic. Personal contact with teachers from other countries through networking strengthened this. One delegate used the experience gained to cascade information to Senior Leaders in their school. One reported the strengthening of resources in their institution. One reported that their teaching techniques had been improved.

Have you been able to contribute to the project in any way?

One delegate contributed to a number of Super Teaching Videos, one worked on the SEE Project website, another helped to develop the content of the programme for hosting a learning raid in their institution and the 4th helped design and deliver a one day training course during the learning raid in their country.



All have had an active involvement in the project in addition to their learning raid experiences. Some have been involved on an ongoing basis. The staff member involved with the stemaction.eu website described their role as

“my contribution is to develop a good website, so all the content, information and materials can be found and used by all the countries and teachers in order that it can help them with developing their STEM education”

How has the project helped your own personal development?

One stated that speaking English and networking has had the biggest developmental benefits. Another said they had a better understanding of teaching in other countries and their cultures. Another quoted “this project has had a huge impact on my self-awareness and development. I have learnt about partner teaching strategies and about new teaching and learning methodologies”. Finally, a delegate said “I enhanced my skill in relation to Stem. Meeting with colleagues from different countries has helped me to find out about some STEM exercises to use/adopt in my institution. Also, setting up new communication with people from abroad is a way to have some new collaboration in the future”.

Please describe 3 highlights of the work of the project?

- The workshops in the different countries, on different topics. The hands-on experience with for example building a robot, or by working together with teachers from other countries,
- The website has a clear structure and the content is very meaningful,
- Networking with likeminded individuals,
- Sharing best practice particularly with technology centres,
- Use of technology i.e. robotics / control systems
- Building a lesson plan database and being able to use the shared lessons in my classes. I have used three of them already,
- The learning raid to the UK in January 2016 was very informative and very well organised
- The collaboration of the project participants during the project was a strong highlight,
- Training,
- School and institution visits.



What improvements would you make to the project?

- People who participate in the visits should be at least good in speaking English,
- Every country should have clear preparation for visits and during visits all country members should be mixed with other countries during the whole visit,
- Every country should do at least one presentation and there should be also a discussion/forum moment at the end of a visiting day,
- Nothing specific – Perhaps would have liked to see more students,
- This project was well organised from start to finish and therefore it would be difficult to improve on it,
- The project is well designed and coordinated. Thanks for your hard work.
- More practical Stem activities for participants to see.
- Increase the time for the training period.

Conclusion

Obviously the 4 delegates in the focus group knew the project very well and had not just experienced it but all had contributed in some way to its success whether through, training, video/ website development or hosting and planning a learning raid.

The overall feeling emanating from the focus group is that the project was well planned and delivered. Most found it hard to think of improvements whilst one wanted extra time on learning raids. Undoubtedly all saw the benefit of networking whilst one thought this could be even better if all had a good competence in English.

All thought that their institutions benefitted from participation and all saw personal development for themselves including good evidence of teaching improvement which is at the heart of the SEE Project. There are a few small learning points for individual partners perhaps in relation to the briefing of delegates before attendance on learning raids and perhaps the facilitation during activities of partners working together more across partners.



The focus group however undoubtedly presented a ringing endorsement of the successful methodology and strong partnership that exists in delivering The SEE Project.

B Martin/Ian Crawford
24/4/2017