

galapro – education of trainers for intercomprehension in romance languages

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in collaboration with research teams from 7 other european universities: université stendhal grenoble III (FR.); université de lyon II (FR.); universidad complutense de Madrid (ESP.); universitat autònoma de barcelona (ESP.); université de mons-hainault (BEL.); università de cassino (IT.); université a.i. cuza (ROM.)



GALAPRO (www.galapro.eu) is an internet platform aiming at developing an education of teachers and trainers for intercomprehension in Romance Languages (Catalan, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian) either through distance learning or blended learning methods.

This multilateral project is addressed to language teachers; teachers of other subjects working in a plurilingual and intercultural context; tutors of distance learning directed to intercomprehension; students of different areas (particularly languages and cultures or sciences of communication, language and education).

The Galapro Team intends not only to develop professional competences in the realm of intercomprehension but also to develop transversal competences in the use of ICT, with both communicative and professional purposes. It is expected that this project will enable, in language education professionals, a feeling of belonging to a broader community, which will help to disseminate and consolidate a school culture of intercomprehension.

The training is conceived according to two axes: education in didactics of intercomprehension through the practice of intercomprehension, and construction of plurilingual virtual communities of collaborative learning and teaching of intercomprehension. The education trajectory is organised in five phases.

Phases	Brief description
Preliminary phase	Discovery of Galapro (principles, aims, tools, platform) and identification of educational needs, issues and thematic.
Our questions and dilemmas	Constitution of plurilingual Work Groups (WG) according to the needs, issues and thematic identified.
Educate oneself to educate	Definition of a working plan.
In training/education	Development of the working plan and publication; discussion of the products of the several WG.
Evaluation and balance	Evaluation and balance of the functioning dynamics and products of the WGs.

The online plurilingual platform (in www.galapro.eu/sessions) is expected to help the trainees develop their work during the training (which lasts about 10 to 15 weeks), thanks to its communication tools (discussion forum, chat, e-mail) and working spaces (personal and institutional offices and lib, among others).

The platform has been available since February 2009. Since then, two training sessions have already been developed by 300 participants from 12 different countries from 3 different continents (European, American and African). The team Galapro is being asked, by some international associations and institutions for language education policy, to disseminate this training and implement it in other countries in the world, to different publics and including other languages. We can say that this project and its platform are acknowledged as truly relevant to the promotion of plurilingualism and intercultural competences in the globalised contexts we live in.