



T4ALL



THEATRES FOR ALL
Kick off Meeting

22 September 2015

Morning session (only project partners). Please see attendance list.

Ms. Marina Flamigni, Head of the Department for Programming and social and economical Development and in charge of the European Projects Office of Province of Forlì-Cesena – project coordinator – welcomed the participants and introduced the T4ALL project, wishing a fruitful cooperation among all the partners for a good project management and implementation. Subsequently each partner delegation made a brief self-presentation.

Ms. Elisa Cangini (Province of Forlì-Cesena - European Projects Office) presented the main institutional and geographical characteristics of the province of Forlì-Cesena, pointing out, that it is currently in progress a national reorganisation of provinces. Then she introduced tasks of the Culture Office, an overview of places where Theatre, Performing Arts, and Music can be played and the experience acquired thanks to a project, financed by Region Emilia-Romagna named “An invitation to the theatre no limits”. The project, aimed to promote theatre accessibility for blind, visually and hearing impaired people, by using audio description and subtitles, was carried out in cooperation with:

- the Forlì section of the Italian Union of the Blind and partially Sighted
- the Centro Diego Fabbri of Forlì
- the Department for Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna Forlì Campus
- the Municipalities of Forlì, Cesena, Predappio, and Sarsina

Mr. Juan Pablo Martín (Region of Extremadura - Technical Assistance) presented the main institutional and geographical characteristics of its Region, in particular Sustainable Agrofood Industry, Cultural Heritage, Natural Protected Area and Renewable Energies. The Service for Culture Promotion of the Region has several competences, in particular, concerning the goal of the project, promoting and supporting institutional and social initiatives that facilitate the participation and access of citizens to cultural activities and heritage as an instrument of equality and social emancipation. The Junta de Extremadura as member of the Direction board of the Great Theatre of Cáceres, the Theatre Lopez de ayala de Badajoz and the Roman Theatre of Merida has identified these 3 venues as potential Theatres and Festivals for T4ALL. Furthermore the Government is really interested in promoting the audio description in the region, to train local technicians in this field and last but not least the Region is a decision maker for promotional policies in the field.

Ms. Alison Carminke (University of Wolverhampton - Academic Enterprise Manager) pointed out the characteristics of the University focusing on the Faculty of Arts and its School of Performing Arts that includes the Arena Theatre, one of the leading venues in the UK for support of deaf and disabled artists. The University has various experiences in EU projects, for instance “Sign MEDIA and Sign MEDIA smart: technical glossaries for deaf people working in the media

Ms. Layla Curmi (Accès Culture – Audio description production manager) presented the characteristics of the Association that was founded in 1993 to realise audio descriptions for theatres in France. Since then 168 performances with audio description, 41 performances in French Sign Language and 17 performances with adapted surtitles have been realised.

After the partner presentations, **Mr. Ognjen Tomic**, external assistant for Province Forli-Cesena firstly introduced the Creative Europe Programme; then he showed an overview of project activities (WPs, timetable, roles), project objectives and presented the project Work Plan for the next six months with the foreseen deadlines:

No objections were raised.

Some time was then dedicated to questions and discussion.

Mr. Frédéric Le Du (Accès Culture - Director) asked for further explanations about how the project and the budget work.

Mr. Ognjen Tomic explained that the activities described in the application form must be performed although small changes will be possible. Each modification of project activities must be notified and approved by the Executive Agency. He highlighted that all partners should make maximum efforts to implement all project activities as they are strictly connected to the reimbursement of EU funds. Mr Tomic invited all partners to read carefully the application form and to analyse their budget. The partners will discuss the first request for project modification at the next project meeting in Wolverhampton.

Ms. Andrea Donda, external assistant for Province Forli-Cesena, presented an overview about project and financial management, starting from the programme financial rules, (eligible costs, procurement and subcontracting) to the financial tasks of each partner, to checks, audits and evaluations. She pointed out that more information would be given after the kick off meeting of the Europe Creative Programme in Bruxelles (2 October 2015). She also informed the partnership that the Financial Management Internal Guidelines should be submitted by mid October.

Mr. Juan Pablo Martín, external technical assistant of Region of Extremadura, in charge of Communication and Dissemination plan (WP2) presented the draft of the plan.

The choice of the project logo was an issue to discuss. Mr. Martin presented 4 types of project logo and asked the partners to choose one. The majority chose logo no. 2 and logo no. 4 and asked Mr Martin to provide more versions of them, according to the suggestions made during the discussion. It was agreed to prepare some more proposals on the 2 chosen project logos in order to select the best one.

Accès Culture is in charge of WP3 (Needs assessment and elaboration of local actions plan). **Ms. Layla Curmi** presented the "Questionnaire" they have elaborated for a first evaluation by partnership. The questionnaire was targeted to theatres, in order to define which is the level of audio description implemented so far, if it is well communicated, how it is financed, which techniques are used, etc.

The partnership suggested that a second version of the Questionnaire should be prepared with blind and partially sighted people as a target. Moreover some adaptations can be done also to include different local needs (influenced by national culture and law). The idea is to use the questionnaire as a basis to be adapted in different contexts.

Before the lunch break the project **Steering Committee** was appointed as follows:

Province of Forli-Cesena, coordinator: Ms. Marina Flamigni and Ms. Milena Bonucci Amadori as substitute

Region of Extremadura, partner: Mr. Jesús Ferrero Cantisán

Accès Culture, partner: Mr. Frédéric Le Du

University of Wolverhampton, partner: Mr. Neil Reading

22 September 2015

Afternoon session (public session) Please see attendance list

Ms. Marina Flamigni, Head of the Department for Programming and social and economical Development and in charge of the European Projects Office of Province of Forli-Cesena – project coordinator – welcomed the participants and introduced the T4ALL project, wishing a fruitful cooperation

between European and local partners.

Ms. Raffaella Baccolini, professor at the Department for Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna - Forlì Campus and President of “Diego Fabbri” Centre, and **Ms. Valeria Illuminati** (audio descriptor) presented some audio description experiences in theatres located in the area of Province of Forlì-Cesena. During the 2010 MA in Screen Translation on Accessible Future held at the Department for Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna - Forlì Campus, an experimental audio description was made for the play **Trial of Jesus**, written by the local playwright Diego Fabbri. In 2011 the project “An invitation to the theatre - No limits” was implemented. Several people (translators, actors, troupes) and organisations cooperated for the success of the project, showing that the team work works. The initiative has been proposed every year since then. The same organisations, such as the Italian Union of the Blind and partially Sighted, the Diego Fabbri Centre, the Department for Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna, located in Forlì, the municipalities of Forlì, Cesena, Sarsina, Predappio, the Emilia-Romagna Region, Province of Forlì-Cesena will work on T4ALL.

In 2015 17 plays were audio described for several theatres, including one outside Emilia-Romagna Region. In 2016 11 audio descriptions will be implemented.

A subtitled video was showed on the activities carried out during the audio description work, underlining strengths and weaknesses.

Subsequently each partner presented their experience in audio description projects.

Mr. Juan Pablo Martín (Region of Extremadura) presented the situation before T4ALL in Extremadura. In summer 2015, during the International Festival of Classical Theatre of Merida, one of the services provided has been audio description, that was offered for 9 different plays. During the Festival of Classical Drama Theatre of Alcantara, one of the services provided in 2015 has been Magnetic Loop in local theatres. The current state-of-the-art in Extremadura is the following:

- 1 - Several theatres with magnetic loop services and subtitling services for hearing impaired people
- 2 - Only one big theatre offering audio description services on a regular basis (and only during a Festival. 2 months)
- 3 - A local company was recently created for the implementation of audio description services
- 4 - The Regional government objectives are the promotion of the service in the Region and the training of local professionals to implement the service in the Region and abroad
- 5 - Three important theatres are interested in implementing a pilot action within the framework of T4ALL project.

Mr. Neil Reading (University of Wolverhampton) presented the Audio Description at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton.

1 – the Arena Theatre is a small scale touring venue (150 seat main auditorium and 70 seat studio) and is part of the Arts Council England NPO Organisation with focus on small scale touring work, community development and d/Deaf and disabled theatre;

2 – the Support is Recent:

	Arena Theatre 2013	Arena Theatre 2014	Arena Theatre 2015
Number of shows with Audio Description	1	4	8
Number of shows with BSL/Captioning	5	8	15

Arena Theatre produces an audio/large print brochure for each season at the theatre.

3 - Commitment by Arts Council England

4 - Differences between types of theatres: length of runs; availability of equipment; return on investment; marketing reach; partnerships between companies and venues.

5 - Leading organisations.

For Arena Theatre: Vital Exposure – The Disappearance of Dorothy Lawrence

Fittings Multimedia – Edmund the Learned Pig

Extant Theatre – The Chairs

Dadafest and the Disability Arts Touring Network

For the UK: Vocal Eyes

Audio Description Association

RNIB

6 - Role of Arena Theatre in the UK: offer partnerships to companies; increase accessible performances; support touring companies to including audio description; advocating on behalf of audiences; developing audiences for audio described work.

7 - Future development: Vocal Eyes Survey; increase year-on-year support; development of specialist marketing strategy for Audio Described work; commitment to provide Audio Description and BSL for all in-house created work; purchase of in-house Audio Description equipment.

Mr. Frédéric Le Du (Accès Culture) presented his association: 168 performances with audio description, 41 performances adapted in French Sign Language and 17 performances with adapted surtitles have been realised so far. The association was founded in 1990 for the creation of audio descriptions for theatres in France and for the implementation of French surtitles for hard of hearing and deaf people. Accès Culture's network has developed from 1990 to 2014 into a network made up with 66 cultural organisations. 3 sectors are developed: Audio description, Performances adapted in French Sign Language; Performances with adapted surtitles.

Some time was devoted to discussion. Some local stakeholders contributed to the discussion and shared the opinion that this project could raise more awareness in decision-makers on the necessity to make theatre accessible to partially sighted and blind people's.

23 September 2015

Morning session (only project partners) Please send attendance list

The participants visited the exhibition "Io ti vedo così" (I see you like that) about low vision and no vision at Chiostro Musei San Domenico, together with Mr. Fabio Strada, President of the Forlì section of the Italian Union of the Blind and partially Sighted, some other members of the Forlì section, and Ms. Mariateresa Tartaglia, orthoptist at the Regional Centre of Low vision, Department of Ophthalmology, of the Region Emilia-Romagna Health Service, who illustrated the exhibition.

The exhibition showed how different the vision is for partially sighted people. The effect was obtained by the artist work of the photographer Beatrice Pavasini who modified big pictures according to the descriptions of people with a "different" view. Each picture is displayed with its own description.

Thank to the Forlì section of the Italian Union of the Blind a booklet of the exhibition has been translated and printed to promote educational interchanges.

Subsequently the participants visited the Municipal Theatre Diego Fabbri, guided by Paolo De Lorenzi, director of the Centro Diego Fabbri of Forlì, organisational partner of Province of Forlì-Cesena for Audio Description productions. The direction room and the audio description room were showed.

After the visit, the Head of Department for Culture of the Municipality of Forlì, Ms. Cristina Ambrosini, welcomed the participants on behalf of the administration wishing to further cooperation for the project implementation.