



IO2 – Virtual Seminars

Evaluation Report

A.B. IED



February 2022



READ-IN-CLUB

Project number: 2020-1-EL01-KA227-ADU-094627

IO2 Virtual Training Seminars for «Lit.Mentors»

Virtual Seminar Report

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
1. IMPLEMENTATION	5
1.1 Respondents Profile	5
1.2 Methodology	7
2. Results & Findings	8
CONCLUSIONS.....	12

INTRODUCTION

The present Report is part of the European project "READ-IN CLUB" (2020-1-EL01-KA227-ADU-094627), which is a KA2 project in the field of adult education, co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme. More concretely, this report is subject to activity #3 of IO2-Virtual Training Seminars for «Lit.Mentors», which foresees the conduction of virtual seminars, under the guidance of Sandorf.

The purpose of the seminar was to create a common space for book club mentors and members and exchange knowledge and experience on book club coordination, lifelong learning and interculturalism. More specifically, the following objectives were set:

1. To highlight the important role that reading clubs play in lifelong learning
2. To enhance the knowledge and creativity of book-field professionals
3. To hold discussions with experienced professionals on the correlation between books and lifelong learning
4. To present case-studies and highlight the contribution of books in self-growth and skill enhancement.
5. To bring together members and managers from various reading clubs and create a community at local/regional/national level where they can communicate with each other, share experiences and work collectively.

The virtual seminar was conducted online, through MS Teams and involved a total of 7 participants, 2 staff members and 1 guest lecturer. These participants actively participated and offered ideas and remarks on the presented topic. The idea is to develop a module with and for the target groups, paying great attention on their involvement.

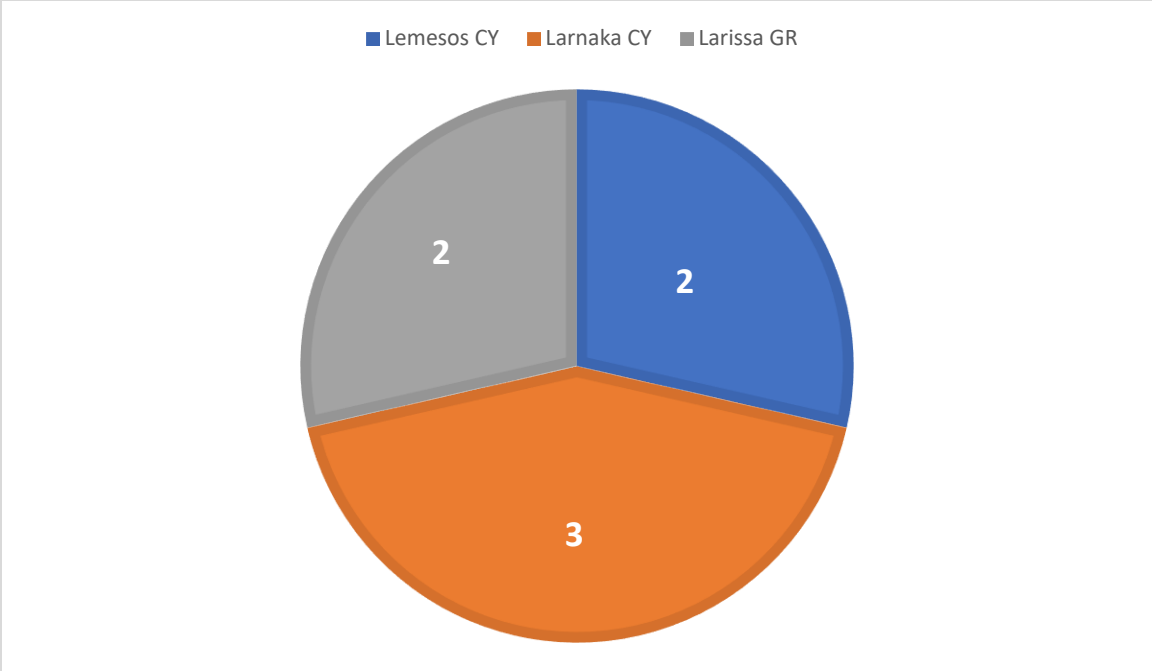
1. IMPLEMENTATION

- **Organizer:** A.B. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development
- **Country:** Cyprus
- **Location:** MS Teams
- **Date:** 3 February 2022
- **Participants:** 7
- **Profile of participants:** Book club coordinators, book club members

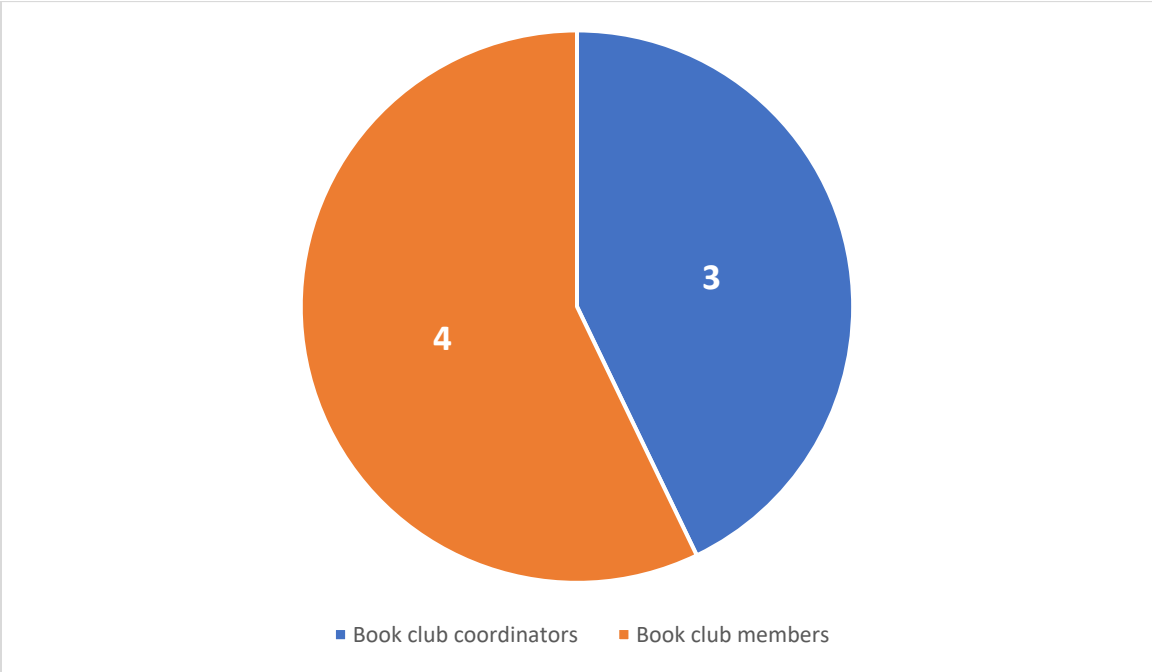
1.1 Respondents Profile

A total of 7 people participated to the virtual seminar. The majority of them live in Cyprus while 2 were from Greece.

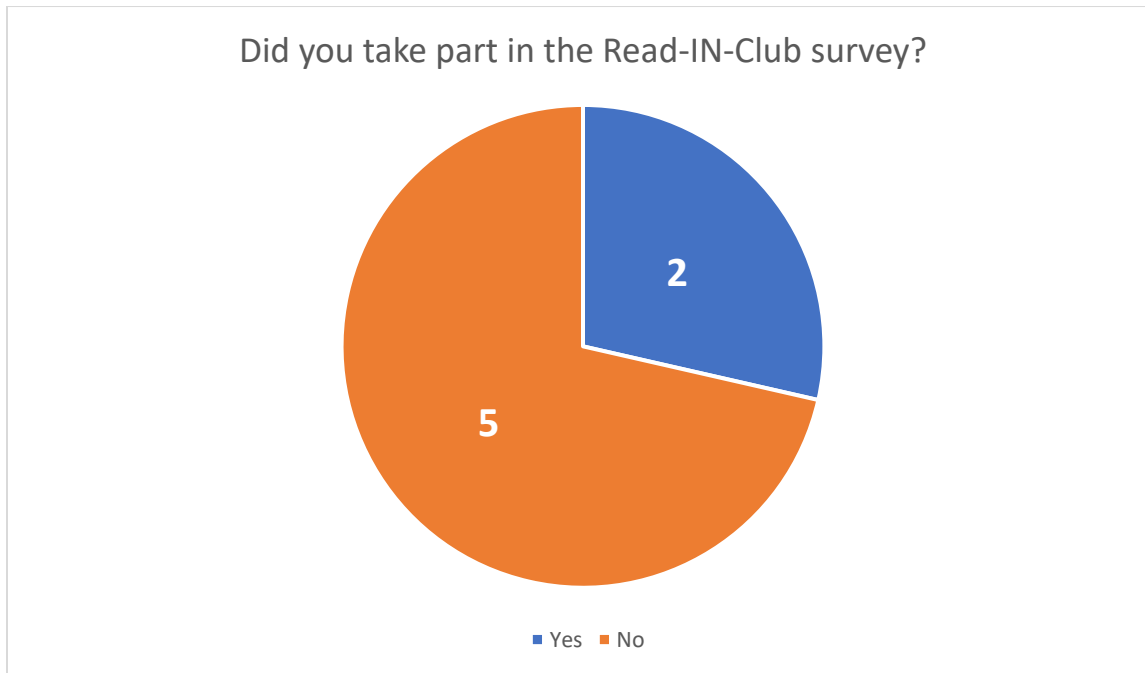




3 of them represented book club coordinators and 4 of them are book club members.



Regarding their involvement to the project, it seems that the majority were not previously engaged with it. 5 of them did not participate in the IO1 Research, but 2 of them did.



1.2 Methodology

In order to keep the participants active and well-engaged during the whole process, we organized an interactive environment. First 3 ice-breaking activities were presented, in order to create a friendly and comfort atmosphere between the participants and help them get to know with each other as well as with the organizer. Then, the participants were introduced to the project and its objectives, while the results of IO1 Research Report were thoroughly presented to them. This initiated a discussion on the pandemic situation and the problems raised to book clubs and the face-to-face interactions.

After, we focused our attention on the seminar's topic, which was "life-long learning and book clubs". To do this, we invited a guest lecturer, the author Mr. Papaioannou Asterios. However, due to his inability to join the seminar at a real-time, Mr. Papaioannou prepared and sent us a presentation regarding the meaning of books in lifelong learning. The video was presented during our seminar, gaining great attention by the participants.

Finally, a workshop was conducted, aiming to help participants understand the process of unconscious lifelong learning and the essence of the books

themselves. In the first activity, participants were asked to write down a book they find important and also think of 2 things that actually learned from it. A discussion was raised, with the participants describing their experiences while reading these books. They also analyzed the meaning of group reading and explored skills and knowledges acquired from their book clubs. In the second activity, the participants were given 4 passages from Mr. Papaioannou's book, *Human Manual*, and were asked to identify 3 things that can be learned. Through a casual discussion, the participants interacted with each other and exchanged views and opinions.

By the completion of the seminar, we provided to participants a post-evaluation questionnaire, in order to give us further feedback.

2. Results & Findings

This section details the data, collected from the participants' responses. To gather and extract this data, we used Online Evaluation Questionnaires that were distributed to participants right after the course. In total, we were able to collect feedback from all participants (7 responses).

Seminars evaluation questionnaire

1. How would you evaluate the seminar as a whole?

1. Πώς θα αξιολογούσατε το σεμινάριο που διεξήχθη στο σύνολό του:

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7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

2. How would you evaluate the theoretical part/lecture in relation to the knowledge provided on the subject of reading clubs?

2. Πώς θα αξιολογούσατε το θεωρητικό μέρος/τη διάλεξη σε σχέση με τις γνώσεις που παρέχονται σχετικά με το θέμα των λεσχών ανάγνωσης;

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7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

3. How would you evaluate the seminar in relation to the appealing of its topic?

3. Πώς θα αξιολογούσατε το σεμινάριο σε σχέση με το πόσο ελκυστικά είναι τα θέματά του;

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7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

4. How would you evaluate the seminar in relation to the stimulation provided in the group dynamic?

5. Πώς θα αξιολογούσατε το σεμινάριο σε όσον αφορά την αλληλεπίδραση μεταξύ των συμμετεχόντων;

[More Details](#)

7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

5. Comments and Remarks:

"Very interesting!"

"Nice seminar with nice people. The organizers and participants were all great and I hope to meet again in person to continue our great conversation."

"An educational seminar that awakened us and made us realize the value of the book even more. Nice atmosphere, open dialogue."

"I would say it was a great seminar and I would highly recommend it to my co-reader friends. I have no comment to make."

Module evaluation questionnaire

1. Please evaluate the way the seminar was conducted:

1. Παρακαλώ αξιολογήστε τον τρόπο με τον οποίο διεξήχθη το σεμινάριο:

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7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

2. How much did the theoretical part/lecture improve your knowledge on the topic of reading clubs?

2. Πόσο το θεωρητικό μέρος/διάλεξη βελτίωσε τις γνώσεις σας σχετικά με το θέμα των λεσχών ανάγνωσης;

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7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

3. How attractive did you find the theme of the seminar?

3. Πόσο ελκυστικό βρήκατε το θέμα του σεμιναρίου;

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7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

4. How encouraging and cohesive did you find the team dynamic?

4. Πόσο ενθαρρυντική και συνεκτική βρήκατε τη δυναμική της ομάδας;

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7

Responses



4.86 Average Rating

5. How technically advanced and interactive do you consider the seminar to be?



5. Πόσο τεχνικά ανεπτυγμένο και διαδραστικό θεωρείτε ότι είναι το σεμινάριο;

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7

Responses



5.00 Average Rating

6. Further comments

“Excellent seminar with very interesting topics. Lifelong learning is an important process, especially nowadays and it is very important that it is identified with the reading of a book. Very nice and the presentation of mr. Papaioannou and his book. Through the exercise you made us understand that through the book we learn even when we don't understand it. As a reader and member of a reading club, i find it a very useful seminar and food for thought in the conferences we organize with other book lovers.”

“Very good job! I enjoyed all the presentations and Mr Papaioannou who told us about the history of lifelong learning and explained the process so well. As the coordinator of the creative writing and reading club I found the seminar extremely interesting and I think it is an excellent effort to once again strengthen the reading clubs, which have been frozen in recent years. The presentation with the data and policies of Europe on reading clubs was also very interesting.”

“A very nice seminar. Very well organized and coordinated by Ms. Makri, with a nice presentation by the author Asterios Papaioannou. As a reader of books I was very interested in the topic and it made me understand that my subconscious will always learn, even when I don't understand it. The exercises we did were very nice too. Mr Papaioannou's book is excellent.”

“Excellent seminar with excellent people. It was very pleasant to see young people involved in such topics. Our discussions were valuable and fruitful and I particularly enjoyed the interactive exercises, despite my difficulties in connecting. The dialogue with Mrs Stavrou was also very good, and she had very interesting comments. Nice books were also suggested, which I will recommend to the club to read. I wish you good luck.”

“The workshop was very interesting. Ms Makri provided sufficient information that led to a better understanding of the benefits of lifelong learning and managed through her presentation to keep the interest of the audience. Moreover, Mr. Papaioannou motivated and inspired us through his presentation about this continuous journey of expanding our knowledge and exploring new ideas, especially in this unprecedented pandemic situation. The topic presented is very useful and helps us to realize that there are limitless avenues for personal growth and acquisition of new skills.”

“The seminar was very well organised and very interesting. Dora Makri is excellent and very willing to answer my questions. The content was comprehensive and I understood perfectly the advantages of lifelong learning. Mr Papaioannou's presentation was also excellent and motivated me to further develop my skills and acquire new skills. Thank you very much for the wonderful experience!”

“The workshop was very interesting and helped us to understand and discover the possibilities offered by continuous learning. At the same time, the facilitator Mrs. Dora Makri managed to keep our attention by stimulating dialogue and using interactive tools. Finally, Mr Papaioannou's presentation gave me ideas to expand my knowledge and develop new skills. Thank you very much!”

CONCLUSIONS

Our findings confirmed that the Virtual Seminar was very well-received by the participants. The post-evaluation questionnaires witnessed a positive attitude towards the contents, the design and the project as a whole.

More specifically, the participants commented on the efficiency of the seminar, showing great interest on the correlation between lifelong learning and book clubs. It was a highly interactive seminar and the participants felt comfortable to exchange views and experiences and provide us with important insights on the topic. It was noted that many of them had not perceived books and book clubs as a subconscious learning journey and it will be a useful asset for their further activities in book clubs.



Overall, through this virtual seminar, we managed to reach our goals, actively engage our target group and examine the thematic by using a sufficient and diverse sample, who validated the positive course of the Output so far, and provided us with significant feedback that initiated us to further increase the quality and deliver optimal results.

