



July 2018

## Newsletter n° 3



### SAVE THE DATE: 4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

The **CARMA Final Conference** will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 in Brussels at the Royal Library of Belgium. On the occasion of the World Teacher's Day, CARMA will present the results of testing collaborative learning in schools and our policy recommendations that have been developed as a result of the impact we have seen among teachers and students.

Under the Motto "*Collaborative Learning as a Road towards Educational Success*", this European Conference will bring together teachers and Educational politicians and stakeholders from various European countries for 1-day fruitful discussions, learning from the CARMA impact to innovate education using non-formal education. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day will be composed of field visits to two schools with non-formal learning practices.

So, save this date in your agenda! We look forward to seeing you in Brussels in the Autumn!



### CARMA Toolkit: A setp-by-step guide for implementing collaborative learning to increase student motivation and participation

*"The CARMA project is not about converting formal into non-formal, but it is about taking advantage of the techniques of non-formal learning so to enrich and improve the formal education approach. Although the techniques are non-formal, these learning approaches continue being formal, because this is important for our students."* - The Research Group in Educational Technology from University of Murcia.

The CARMA Toolkit will soon be available on CARMA's website, and will target secondary school teachers working with students in the age range of 11 to 16 years old in general. Its primary focus is to support understanding in collaborative learning approaches and offer a step-by-step guide on how to implement collaborative learning activities to increase student's motivation, participation and raise achievement levels.

The Toolkit addresses the specific needs of secondary education teachers wanting practical ideas on how to introduce collaborative learning in the classroom, in particular when teaching in a complex environment to learners identified as disadvantaged, low achieving and at risk of early school leaving. More importantly, this Toolkit aims at giving teachers the tools to make the collaborative learning environment a reality in schools!



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### A big round of applause for the Second Educational Forums!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the national educational forums has just been finalised in all countries of the consortium. Read below the main outcomes from the events!

#### Palermo, Italy

The Education Forum took place at the International school of Palermo, where a group of students and teachers have got to know the CARMA techniques and the project. They shared stories about their name, reflected on their emotions related to this school year and released their creativity during the storytelling activity "I know what you have in your pocket". Finally, they were asked what can be done by students and teachers to make lessons more interesting and engaging. They all agreed: more interaction, more experiments and more collaboration are needed.

#### Aveiro, Portugal

The Education Forum was organised jointly with José Estêvão School Cluster of Aveiro, with the participation of 36 teachers from different schools. Participants were introduced to the CARMA activities and results achieved, with focus on the catalogue of non-formal techniques and on the teachers' assessment model. A practical oriented session was held using the "Six Thinking Hats" to discuss a current problem of the schools and define a common strategy to deal with it. The teachers were delighted in using this technique and its potential application in the classrooms and have shown interest in learning more about the techniques in the Toolkit.

#### Leuven, Belgium

The CARMA Educational Forum was organised in Leuven during March. UCLL colleagues together with Prof. Linda Casteñada from Murcia University as a visiting professor, lead the workshop. 17 teacher education students as well as teacher educators from 5 different countries learned about the CARMA research and techniques, while also experiencing some of them during the workshop. The visiting professor of the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) asked UCLL afterwards to repeat this workshop for other teacher education colleagues while visiting RUB in August.

#### Murcia, Spain

The Educational Forum was held in Murcia and the event was a great opportunity to show the main results of the project and to share with secondary school teachers and other stakeholders some non-formal collaborative techniques. Moreover, Luis F. Martínez Conesa, head of the Especial Needs Service in the Department of Education in Murcia was a key stakeholder at the event who showed the situation about early school leaving in the region. Participants appreciated the information provided and they expressed their interest to have more information and resources.

#### Pouillon and Bayonne, France

Two Educational Forums addressing different target groups were implemented in Pouillon and Bayonne with the objective of sharing the project results and to give participants a chance of experimenting a non-formal learning technique used during the project, enabling them of understanding the process and to test for real what the students had tested during the experimentation phase. Two techniques were used ("Petal of Debate" and "Six Thinking Hats", and participants in both events have shown a real interest to be trained to use them in their daily work in the schools.

#### Istanbul, Turkey

The Educational Forum was held in Atasehir Doga Campus in Istanbul with 35 participants from different campuses of Doga schools and public educational organizations. The CARMA Project and Project results were introduced to participants. Then small group activities using different non-formal techniques were promoted to give a flavor of the what the toolkit contains. The education forum was ended with Evaluation session with Reciprocal Maieutic Approach (RMA).

