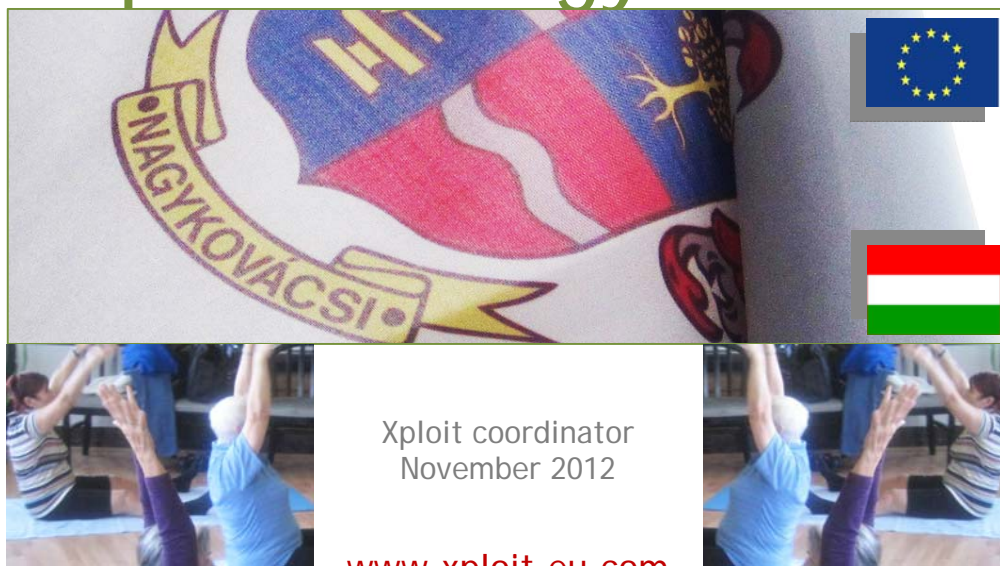


## Xploit in Nagykovácsi



Xploit coordinator  
November 2012

[www.xploit-eu.com](http://www.xploit-eu.com)

Contact: Jan Gejel on [jan.gejel@skolekom.dk](mailto:jan.gejel@skolekom.dk)

Please refer to the Xploit Action Phase 1 Report *Xploit in Iasi Romania* to obtain the full understanding of this paper

## Xploit in Nagykovácsi



As planned the Xploit project and partners visited the Nagykovácsi community close to Budapest in Hungary from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2012. In the early days of the project the Nagykovácsi partner, the private enterprise Trebag - <http://trebag.hu/fooldal> -, was expected to be a mirroring partner in the project, observing the actions in the project's four "learning communities" and reflecting on to what extent those actions could be of interest to the community. Along the project, however, it became clear that there was a more ambitious interest in the partner organisation and in the community. Therefore the project has included the Nagykovácsi community in the "learning communities activities". The visit to the Nagykovácsi community was therefore more than a partner meeting and offered a number of impressions from and dialogues with community players and stakeholders.

Nagykovácsi is a community with approximately 8000 inhabitants and is a typical satellite community, closely linked to the Budapest metropolis. The community is focused on its many values and opportunities and takes an interest in the different challenges of developing into a learning community, including establishing partnerships and collaboration in the community.

Some of the characteristics of the Nagykovácsi community are:

- Due to the size of the community it is possible to establish partnerships, collaboration and experiments among all citizens and organisation, making the community an interesting *learning community laboratory*
- There is a solid collaboration mentality both among public, private and NGO stakeholders in the community
- Most of the citizens work in Budapest, but prefer to live in Nagykovácsi due to its quality of life and to raise their children there; most families are openly requesting quality education of their children and young people
- Nagykovácsi has many natural resources, and some of them can be directly linked to entrepreneurship and potential economies
- There is a growing interest in the community of combining and integrating natural resources, healthy lifestyles and modern technology
- The community is via Trebag as a community "hub" engaged in several European activities, which is not typical for this type of community
- The young people leave the community after secondary school to attend more educational or labour market opportunities in Budapest; Nagykovácsi is therefore a typical youth-drain community with few opportunities for young people and young adults
- The community is a *community of living*, not a *community of working*, which is a challenge for future community visions
- The community would like to limit the population to max 10.000 to preserve the quality of life, including the natural surroundings

For many years Trebag has functioned as a bridge to Europe in Nagykovácsi, bringing many European activities into the community. Trebag is moreover focused on entrepreneurship and living labs, which offers the community a strong resource for

innovation, if this focus can be linked to education and potential economies in the community.

It was clear from the visit that a community such as Nagykovácsi not only has the opportunity of addressing the global market through technology, but also has a direct super-market very close, namely Budapest with its more than 2 million inhabitants.

Innovation fields like wind energy, ecology, quality food, health initiatives and are on the agenda in Nagykovácsi, and such initiatives are perfect for education, entrepreneurship and European cooperation.

*Nagykovácsi could develop into a very interesting laboratory for such initiatives in the future - in interaction with similar communities across Europe. Such laboratories might prove attractive to young people as well and build up small economies in the community.*

The Xploit project would like to support such visions, also beyond the formal termination of the project.

#### *Actions to take*

The Xploit partnership and partners will follow the community initiatives closely and several initiatives have been taken through the Xploit project to establish further European cooperation with the kindergarten the school the youth association and the municipality of Nagykovácsi. It is expected that several stakeholders in the community will be invited into new European initiatives for children and young people very soon.

In this case Xploit has functioned as an incubator of exploiting European resources in the community.

Xploit and its partners wish to encourage and support the further integration of physical spaces and digital spaces in the community.

## The final Xploit event



The project will offer interested players across Europe, and beyond, to participate in the final Xploit event.

The event will be pre-announced mid November and take place in Girona Spain on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. A special section on the Xploit website will facilitate event registration and information.

The event will be pro-active as it aims to bring together and organize a number of stakeholders across Europe with an interest in working with learning communities in the new EU Commission program period from 2014-20.

The event will address community players at different levels, from policy-makers to practitioners, involved in creating sustainable collaboration in the community aiming to create new partnerships and infrastructures to meet important educational, social and inclusion challenges in Europe.

The event will offer general and practical input from the Xploit project, as well as from other learning community stakeholders, and invite participants to a dialogue on the challenges of learning communities and on future networking on learning communities in Europe.

Thus the event will not only address the past, lessons learned, but also the future: new networks and partnerships will be created to address the 2014-20 program, and to prepare the needed knowledge partnerships for the different funding actions.

The Xploit communities will describe and discuss their practical learning community experience and point to serious challenges to meet, based on a change approach: how is change created, observed, felt and put into sustainable perspectives.

The event will at the same time offer inputs and dialogues with qualified and experienced learning community stakeholders from different European projects and global networks.

The final outcomes of the Xploit project will be available to the participants and can therefore be discussed during the event.

The event will take place in Girona Spain for practical, community and financial reasons. Girona can offer low fare travels from all over Europe, reasonable hotel prices and an active community.

Participants might wish to spend the following weekend in Barcelona or in Costa Brava.

The event will be free of charge, and will be co-financed from the coordinator and local partner project budgets.

#### *Actions to take*

The coordinator will produce a one page pre-announcement mid November. The web resources will be available in December.

The coordinator and the local Xploit partner will establish a solid collaboration with the local network of stakeholders, representing the municipality, several educations and a number of NGO's. This will take place around the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

The local event partner will be this network, not local authorities.

### Partner missions in the remaining phases



The common mission for all communities in Xploit is in Action Phase 2:  
*To continue and expand the lifelong learning activities in the communities documenting how European resources play a significant role in this*

+

*Further develop and more systematically describe the new infrastructures created from these activities and how they are steps towards learning communities*

=

*Qualified production of the project final outcomes*

In the remaining phases of Action Phase 2 and of the project, the communities will focus especially on the following achievements:

- Deepening the ongoing activities
- Qualified documenting of ongoing and new initiatives, thus enhancing the journalistic activities
- Paying attention to the exploitation aspect in the initiatives and the community work
- Reflecting on learning community processes and structures in the community
- Contributing to the final outcomes, and the learning community web package in particular



The project will support these achievements through the quality assurance reporting as well as through two Monitoring Tool activities:

1. The first one will address the practical activities in the community and the exploitation aspects (January 2013)
2. The second one will focus on reflections on important learning community topics during the project progression, such as partnerships, collaboration, infrastructures, community workers' competence development and the sustainability of the emerging learning community structures (February 2013)

At the partner meeting In Iasi Romania learning community approaches ("mottos") were decided as characteristics of the emerging communities.

From the meeting in Nagykovácsi the following keywords can be attached:



UDINE IT

*Creating new public spaces for learning*

The wide range of public space activities might be linked further to digital spaces, gaming and story-telling

It is important to describe the collaborating infrastructures in the community, and make visible the roles of Xploit.



NAGYKOVÁCSI HU

*Creating local platforms for community development*

A stronger focus seems to emerge on youth, entrepreneurship and the combination of physical and digital spaces in the community; these perspectives might be followed up in the remaining phases of the project

It is important to describe the collaborating infrastructures in the community, and make visible the roles of Xploit.



SALT CATALONIA ES

*Joining forces: EU projects as engines of change*

Due to national and local set-backs in economy and political support, the partner meeting in Nagykovácsi pointed towards adjusting the final Xploit efforts to reinforcing the community capacity of the established network in Salt Catalonia, and to link this network more strongly to European resources and initiatives

It is important to describe the collaborating infrastructures in the community, and make visible the roles of Xploit, both success stories and failures and set-backs.



IASI RO

*From competing to sharing - changing of mentalities*

The emerging infrastructures of collaboration in the Iasi educational sector has been strengthened since the Iasi partner meeting and it is now possible to promote and discuss and disseminate European resources among a large number of educations at all levels

This mentality shift it not easy to document and therefore the Iasi partners might focus strongly on describing and documenting the mentality shift infrastructures in the last phases of the project, as such evidence would be of high value to the final outcomes



SWANSEA WALES UK

*Taking the learning region to the next level: involving the business world*

Several economic and politic changes are taking place in Swansea and in the region, some of them possibly challenging learning community structures and capacities

Therefore it is important for the project that the Swansea partners are able to describe and explain these changes and link them to qualities and criteria of learning communities

The project needs more clear input on the role of Xploit in the City and Region of Swansea during the project duration

The project's quality assurance responsible will offer further comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the Xploit communities.

However it makes sense to point to some *common key challenges* in this context, as they will influence the quality of the final outcomes:

- The efforts should be linked closer and more transparently to exploitation of European resources (projects, initiatives, collaboration, funding) - **direct impact**
- The spin-off impacts on the communities caused by the very "presence" of the Xploit project should be described - **indirect impact**
- The initiatives should be linked to descriptions and reflections on the creation of learning communities infrastructures in the community - **future impact**

#### *Actions to take*

The project will support this through the *Action Phase 2 Part 2 Monitoring Tool* to be launched in January, as well as through the *Learning Community Reflection Monitoring Tool* to be launched in February.

At the same time partners are strongly encouraged to focus more on these challenges in their community dialogues and collaboration.

## Obstacles and challenges



Many learning communities initiatives struggle with how to link to the local authorities.

Even though local authorities might really be among the heavy beneficiaries of learning communities initiatives, they are often either hesitating or directly reluctant.

Policy-makers at higher levels seem not to be able to work at this strategic level, or are occupied by here-and-now engagements, often directly related to political games in the local or regional government.

Public staff, on the other hand, might be interested in learning communities initiatives, but are often afraid of changes or challenging the political leaderships.

On top of this elections and resulting changes in local politics can be obstacles to long-term learning community initiatives.

These challenges should be directly addressed in the Xploit final outcomes and ways to handle such challenges suggested. The challenges are directly linked to one of the major topics in learning communities: to what degree should the collaboration structures and partnerships in learning communities depend on the local authorities? What roles should the local authorities play in learning communities - and what roles should partnerships and citizens play?

#### *Actions to take*

These topics will be addressed in the *Learning Community Reflection Monitoring Tool* to be launched in February, and should be a focal point in the final outcomes, especially in the policy paper and in the common criteria paper, as should the lack of competences among

medium level staff in local governments to address European cooperation, lifelong learning and learning community challenges.  
The challenges linked to the roles of local authorities should also be addressed directly in future European initiatives, following the Xploit project.

## Final outcomes decisions and teams



The following outcomes will result from the Xploit project:

1.  
**Xploit policy paper on learning communities**  
Addressing policy-makers and the European Commission
2.  
**Xploit final event 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 Girona Spain**  
Addressing community practitioners and local policy-makers  
Team: coordinator + host partner (+ QA)
3.  
**Learning communities “Lessons Learned”**  
Final recommendations from the Xploit project in PDF format  
For wider dissemination and in several languages
4.  
**Xploit learning communities package - [www.learningcommunities.eu](http://www.learningcommunities.eu)**  
Material from the communities, organized according to the Lessons Learned paper  
Team: coordinator + sosuMedia + IT partner + RO partner (+ QA)
5.  
**Towards common generic criteria for learning communities**  
Addressing community practitioners and local policy-makers, as well as European and global stakeholders  
[This outcome is not foreseen in the application]
6.  
**The Future of Xploit**  
European network created through the final event and aiming to address the 2014 Call for Knowledge Partnerships  
[This outcome is only partly foreseen in the application]

In Attachment A you will find a timeline for the production of final outcomes, and in Attachments B you will find the first draft for the thematic organization of the key outcomes.

The project’s QA responsible, Holger Bienzle, warned against designing the key final outcomes in a problematic direction: it is not feasible to announce a “Guide” for learning communities for many reasons:

- There are many ways to learning communities
- Learning communities might be very different
- Learning communities should be defined and appreciated according to local resources, traditions and values
- Learning communities are not products or fixed results, but processes, ever changing living organisms

Therefore it is not likely that the final Xploit outcome paper will be named a "guide". We will be reflecting several less pretentious names, and the choice of name should be reflected in the content of the paper.

The following names or "metaphors" might be appropriate:

- ~ Learning Communities Lessons Learned
- ~ Towards Learning Communities
- ~ Recommendations for learning community initiatives
- ~ Learning Communities and the exploitation of European resources

#### *Actions to take*

In Attachment A and B you will find the first elements for designing and timing the final outcomes.

All this is detailed in the paper *The Design of the final Xploit outcomes*, produced for the Nagykovácsi partner meeting.

The first efforts will be linked to the production of the final event invitation and to the development of a draft for the organization of the final Xploit "Guide".

## Community dialogues in Nagykovácsi



The Xploit visit to Nagykovácsi was not only aiming to carry through the partner meeting, but to engage in dialogues with community stakeholders.

The long-term mission of the Xploit presence in Nagykovácsi is to help the community develop into a learning community based on the community's resources and opportunities.

During the meeting days the partners were offered to visit the local kindergarten and the local school, and to dialogue with local politicians and the architect responsible for the renewal of the "community interface".

It was clear from these visits that the principles, interests and values of the children and youth institutions are very much in line with European thinking, and that the institutions might be valuable partners in European initiatives.

The local authorities seem very much open to innovation and transnational collaboration, and they seem at the same time very aware of local cultural and natural resources and values to preserve.

In general the community is very much dependent on the European initiatives of the Xploit partner organization, Trebag, as this company functions as hub, driver catalyst and incubator of community activities linked to European cooperation.

The European scene in Nagykovácsi consists in a variety of European initiatives, from mobility to transnational projects in the Lifelong Learning Program.

It is therefore needed to expand this bridging to a larger network or partnership in Nagykovácsi.

This was the background to the special dialogue with the Nagykovácsi Youth Association - a dialogue that was set up during the partner meeting days.

The Youth Association represents all the community stakeholders linked to children and youth - in both formal and non-formal settings.



The Youth Association is therefore in itself such a local network, and a network able to connect smoothly to local authorities, cultural institutions and private companies. The dialogue with The Youth Association revealed a number of mutual interests and the creative potentials, such as the interest in creating attractive activities for young people in the community, the interest in combining physical health, ecology, art forms such as theatre and digital media, the interest in entrepreneurship in both formal and non-formal settings, and the interest in developing Nagykovácsi into a special community for exiting laboratories and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people.

It was therefore agreed that Xploit and the European networks will invite child and youth institutions in Nagykovácsi to participate in the development of new creative Comenius initiatives through Trebag and the Youth Association.

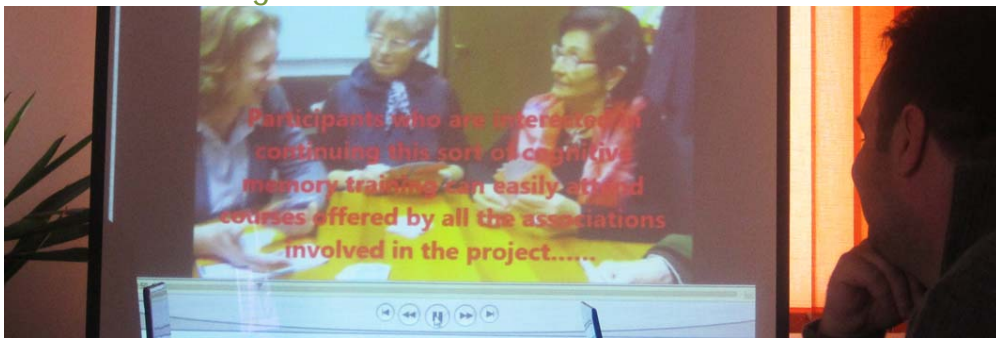
The active participation Trebag and the Youth Association in new initiatives will ensure a strong interaction between projects and the community.

#### *Actions to take*

Xploit and Xploit partners are interested in and will work for three major Nagykovácsi involvements in European cooperation:

1. Inviting the community and its key stakeholders to further dialogues on European cooperation and the benefits of learning communities; the Trebag partner is expected to facilitate such dialogues
2. Invite the community to participate in the final Xploit event and to take part in the network created though the event aiming to establish a Knowledge Partnership addressing the first Call of the 2014-20 Erasmus for All.
3. Invite the Youth Association to further dialogues on new Comenius initiatives addressing the 2013 and 2014 Calls.

## Final monitoring



The series of Community Monitoring in Xploit will be completed through two monitoring activities in 2013.

The Xploit Action Phase 2 Part 2 Monitoring will address exploitation and community initiatives in the period from November 2012 to February 2013.

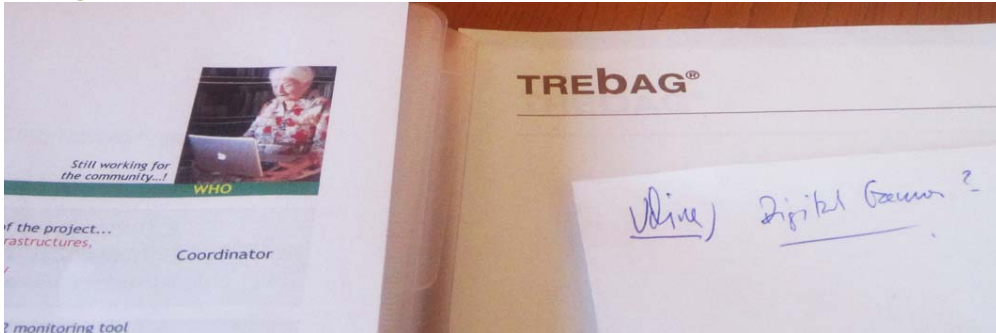
The Learning Community Reflection Monitoring Tool will invite the partners to reflect more systematically on learning community progress, changes and obstacles in the three years of Xploit implementation, and address such topics as exploitation, European community capacity and learning community partnerships and infrastructures.

Both rounds of monitoring will be structured as a few simple questions, but the partners will be invited and encouraged to go deep into the feedback to those questions, as this feedback is crucial to the production of the final outcomes.

#### *Actions to take*

Both monitoring tools will be launched early 2013 and will have an impact on the final outcomes.

## Design of the final outcomes



The two flagship outcomes, the “Guide” paper and the community material structured into the [www.learningcommunities.eu](http://www.learningcommunities.eu), must be organized by a strong and meaningful design principle, and be in accordance with the nature of the messages and the material.

It is furthermore possible that also the other outcomes, such as the policy paper, could be organized by the same principle.

Preliminary reflections on this organizing principle have resulted in two options, taking into account that traditional and academic organizing principles should be avoided:

### Option 1

The flagship outcomes can be organized as different approaches to the theme “exploitation and learning communities”, representing different ways of discussing and practicing learning communities initiatives, such as:

- ~ The change driver approach
- ~ The community profile approach
- ~ The step-by-step systematic approach
- ~ The quality criteria approach
- ~ The partnership approach
- ~ The global approach

In this case the Xploit community material will serve as examples and lessons learned in the different approaches.

### Option 2

Alternatively, the Xploit “motto” or “mission” principle could be employed, like for instance, a kind of expansion of the “driver” and “profile” approach in option 1:

#### COMMUNITY PLATFORM

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by working to include all important organizations and sectors in a community platform.*

#### EU RESOURCES EXPLOITATION

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by a systematic collaboration between relevant partners in the community to identify and exploit European lifelong learning resources.*

#### MENTALITY

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by encouraging a mentality of collaboration and sharing and openness as to new community initiatives.*

#### VOLUNTEERING

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by a strong focus on exploiting and valorizing community resources for volunteering, such as young people, unemployed and elderly - governed by suitable ethical and social principles.*

#### JOINING FORCES

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by a strong collaboration between the strongest and most dedicated players in the community - or by organizations from different sectors who have never collaborated at community level.*

#### CREATING NEW SPACES FOR LEARNING

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by strong initiatives to create new physical and digital spaces for learning in the community, spaces that often facilitates intergenerational meetings.*

#### SMALLER COMMUNITIES APPROACH

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by focusing on a special neighborhood, a specific sector or a special group of learners - with the perspective of widening the activities to the entire community at a later stage, or to function as a satellite for the larger community.*

#### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by the establishment of new strategic partnerships between key stakeholders in the community, often involving the local or regional authorities as an active partner. Such new partnerships will often include both private and public stakeholders.*

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*Example*

*A learning community can be driven by a strong focus on entrepreneurship for different groups of citizens, especially if the community needs to create new market and job opportunities. The private sector should be directly involved in such initiatives.*

In this case the Xploit community material will be organized more directly according to the nature of the Xploit community, but the material will, of course, also be used cross-referential.

#### *Actions to take*

A design draft describing the two options will be developed in November and sent to the partners for feedback.

The selected organizing principle will, then, govern the entire production of final outcomes.



*Thanks to the Nagykovácsi community for their interest and openness.  
A special thanks to Enikő for excellent hosting and networking!*



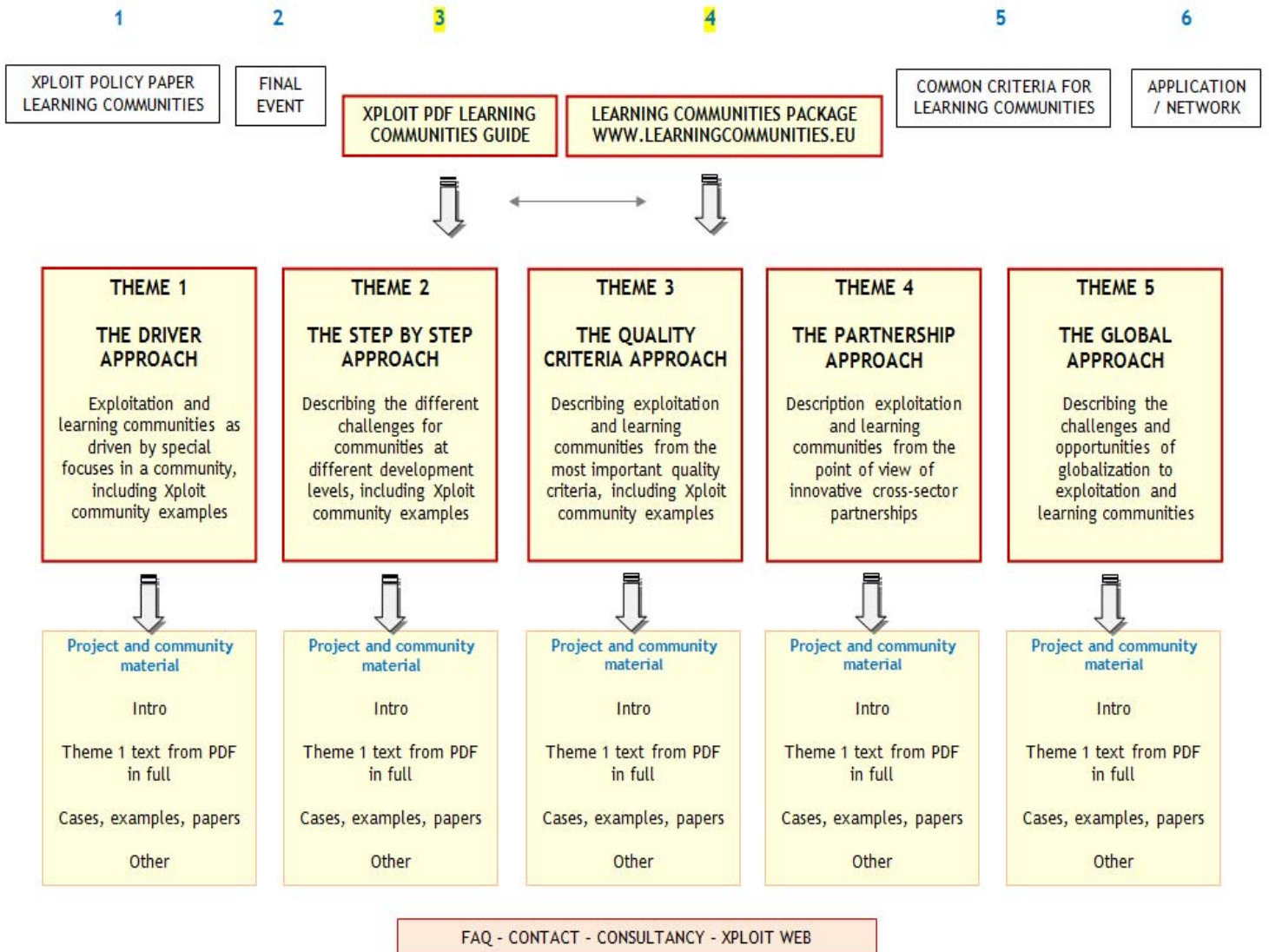
ATTACHMENT A

## Xploit final phases planning

Summary Hungary	Brief description of key discussions, activities and decisions	Linked to final event and final outcomes	Coordinator	NOV
Briefing Salt team	Meeting with Salt Motor Team on final conference and Salt situation	Linked to final event and learning community in Salt	Coordinator - MM	NOV
Conference Invitation - Newsletter - partner debate	Announcement of final Xploit event, including perspectives for participants, including partner debate	Linked to the availability of key final outcomes and the future of Xploit	Coordinator - MM	NOV
Briefing on conference web	Briefing of EZ and sM on conference web facilities on Xploit web	Linked to availability of final outcomes	Coordinator	NOV
Design of final outcomes continued	Adding details to the design of final outcomes, especially focused on the structure of the Guide	Linked to conference, and linked to the design of the final web package	Final outcomes team: JG, EZ, AF, IS	NOV
Production of first draft for Guide	Detailing the different Guide sections	Linked to conference, and linked to the design of the final web package	Final outcomes team: JG, EZ, AF, IS, HB	DEC
Partner debate on design of final outcomes			Coordinator	DEC
Production of <a href="http://www.learningcommunities.eu">www.learningcommunities.eu</a>	Structure and primary content, based on Guide structure	Linked to final event and to final outcomes	EZ / sM	DEC
Partner debate on final web			Coordinator	DEC
Plan Monitoring Tool Action Phase 2 Part 2	Covering the remaining period of the project	Linked to documentation and final report	Coordinator	JAN
Plan Xploit <i>Final Monitoring Tool</i>	Reflections on exploitation, infrastructures, learning community challenges, opportunities and obstacles - Xploit spin-off's	Linked to documentation and final report, and linked to final version of Guide, Common Criteria and policy paper	Coordinator / HB	FEB
Production of final outcomes	Final versions and dissemination	Linked to conference and the future of Xploit, and to the final report	Final outcomes team: JG, EZ, AF, IS, HB	MAR
Final event in Girona April	Preparation, facilitation and follow-up	Linked to the future of Xploit and to the final report	JG, EZ, HB and ES partner	APR
Final event follow-up	Organizing the conference participants and their interests	Linked to the future of Xploit and to the final report	Coordinator	MAY



Xploit design of final outcomes - option 1 illustrated



See also  
Xploit WP 6 Design of Final Outcomes

