

Reading is one of the basic literacy skills in the 21st century that impacts the personal learning of an individual and the intellectual growth. Many adolescents, especially boys, are characterized as reluctant readers as they move to higher classes in the educational system. These readers may like reading but do not read for many reasons and thus may minimize their academic potential.

National research

Many different aspects could be identified that contribute to an existing gender gap in reading literacy such as: biological factors, reading attitudes, learning styles, family and peer influence.

Boys can improve their reading skills when they are allowed to explore literacy through a wide variety of resources and topics. Regarding the literature, boys choose books according to the genre and the book features. Their preferences include science fiction books, graphic novels, humor, fantasy or mystery, books based on movies/TV series and books about sports. The book cover, the drawings, the digital books and larger font size captivate boys' interest.

Focus groups

One focus group with teachers, parents and librarians and one with boys who are avid and reluctant readers were organised in partner countries to discuss thematic areas such as

- the kind of books boys prefer and how they choose those books,
- boys' attitude to reading for information,
- boys' attitude to reading for pleasure,
- the role-model for promoting boys reading and,
- the factors that prevent boys from reading.



According to the results, boys' favourite activities include: computer games, social networks (Facebook), and sports. Boys read in three cases: when they are obliged to, when they are interested in the topic and when there is a reward. Reading as a leisure activity was reported among a minority. The main factors that prevent boys from reading are: lack of interest, time restriction, busy schedules, new technologies, difficulties in reading and the idea that reading is a passive and outdated activity.

There was generally a positive attitude in using the new technologies to promote reading. Reading for pleasure relates to the kind of books boys read — the books they are interested in. Teachers, parents and librarians can have a major influence in boys reading attitudes.



What happened so far?

Consortium meeting in Greece

Doukas School hosted all project partners at Maroussi/Athens for the second transnational partner meeting taking place from 23-24 March, 2015. The meeting focused on presenting the outcomes of the research phase including findings from focus groups and literature reviews. Further activities and working steps have been agreed on such as the guidelines for incorporating boys' literature in school curricula. Based on literature and curricula

reviews in partner countries specific units with lessons for classroom activities will be designed.

Coming up next...

The next working phases include:

- Literature and curricula review
- Creation of units for classroom activities
- Development of training materials
- National promotion events



NEW RELEASE

Boys Reading leaflet in all partner languages is now available for download at the project website!

Contact us at:

<http://boysreading.org>



Partners



Consortium



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