

Fifth Action Conference
Preparing final activities of the Action.
The future of LUDI

Gathering information on the past and planning the future of the Action

Serenella Besio

What is a COST Action? - 1



COST Actions **finance networking among researchers** around a **study topic** - usually within **one discipline**

- that is a niche area
- that needs to emerge
- that requires a new systematization

Budget is **for networking purposes** and for disseminating and/or exchanging ideas, methodologies, results

What is a COST Action? - 2



Usually the development of a COST Action is based on periodical meetings where studies conducted by different research groups are presented. **These studies come from the research those groups regularly conduct**

Usually **products of the COST Actions** are the Proceedings of these meetings-conferences. Training Schools are also organized in the form of **traditional courses**

Why this digression?



To make everyone aware of what we have done and what we are doing within LUDI

LUDI is a very special and unusual COST Action



COST Actions **finance networking among researchers** around a **study topic** - usually **within one discipline**

- that is a niche area
- that needs to emerge
- that requires a new systematization

LUDI **gathers** researchers, practitioners, clinicians, technicians, consultants, ...

We come from **various disciplines** but our study topic has not yet been recognized, and in effect we want to establish it as a **new field of research and of intervention**

LUDI is a very special and unusual COST Action - 2



Budget is **for networking purposes** and for disseminating and/or exchanging ideas, methodologies, results

We are trying to build up altogether a **new field of studies** with related methodologies and initiatives (i.e., including the connection with interlocutors coming from adjacent areas: toy companies, policy makers, Associations' representatives, ...)

We are trying to use budget for **purposes other than** mere networking

LUDI is a very special and unusual COST Action - 3



Usually the development of a COST Action is based on periodical meetings where studies conducted by different research groups are presented.

These studies come from the research those groups regularly conduct

LUDI has been given a structure more typical of a research project.

We have worked within LUDI in spite of the fact that our main researches and our daily professional activities are only mildly (sometimes in no way) related to the field of play for children with disabilities.

LUDI is a very special and unusual COST Action - 4



Usually **products of the COST Actions** are the Proceedings of these meetings-conferences. Training Schools are also organized in the form of **traditional courses**

The **LUDI products** are differentiated into handbooks, other publications, participation to Seminar and Congresses, raising awareness initiatives, ...

The Training School is based on a methodology that includes both **theoretical lessons and hands-on activities** inspired by participatory design. The LUDI TS aims at becoming a Training model in the field

Consequences



This very special situation is the main cause (a group of causes) for the many delays and difficulties we met

LUDI was inspired by the optimism of our will rather than by the pessimism of our intelligence

Each LUDI product, each result we obtained, each step forward we made have a really high value: they are the effect of the strong commitment of the LUDI people, of all of us

What we will do today



We will listen to (and discuss) – for the last time in this form – the presentations of the WG leaders and of the co-ordinators of some Task Forces

We will be presented a first report on the LUDI Training School

This will be the basis for taking decisions (in the MC and in the CG tomorrow) on the future activities

Towards the end of the Action...



□ It has been (and still will be) possible to collect and to critically analyze the existing literature in the fields related to children with disabilities

Probably it will not possible to develop original LUDI tools and methods in many areas:

- overall guidelines for accessibility...
- methods to assess the play of children with disabilities
- methods to create inclusive play activities
- methodologies to develop effective play relationships adult/child

... to-does now and beyond



- ❑ to keep track of all the initiatives - local and international - where single members presented the LUDI activities
- ❑ to disseminate the LUDI publications and products in general
 - ❖ by adopting them in our courses
 - ❖ by contacting local and national associations of pwd
 - ❖ possible translation of some of them in national languages
 - ❖ by presenting them at congresses and conferences
- ❑ to go on in keeping alive the name of LUDI, its framework and statements, its overall action
 - ❖ by sending to international Calls projects related to play and children with disabilities
 - ❖ by proposing this theme as urgent and important to possible sources of financing

We must study together a way to bridge the gap between our dreams and the real world

In any case , we must know that we did a huge, original, authoritative work that, whatever the LUDI future will be, will establish this network as a milestone in this brand new field

We should be proud of this!



**Provoking altogether
a cultural shift
in the play of children with disabilities**