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Case studies:
Learning Scenario of IFIKE: Red Riding Hood

Introduction to the location

Location

The **Museum of Cycladic Art**, established by the Nicholas P. Goulandris Foundation, is located at the heart of Athens, Greece. It was selected as the venue for the AIDA project pilots due to its accessibility, workshop facilities, and relevance to the project's activities, especially considering its experience with dementia patients. The museum houses a significant collection of Cycladic artifacts, fostering an environment conducive to learning and creativity for visitors of all ages, including children, families, and dementia patients. Its central location in Athens ensures easy access for participants and their caregivers, providing an optimal setting for the successful implementation of the AIDA project activities.

Location

The Museum of Cycladic Art emphasizes its dedication to the study and promotion of ancient Greek and Cycladic art. Its programs and workshops are designed to engage visitors in the appreciation and understanding of ancient cultures, supporting the museum's role as an educational and cultural hub in Athens.

The AIDA team for the pilot sessions conducted at the Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens, Greece, comprised of IFIKE Coordinators and Museum Professionals.

https://cycladic.gr/en/

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Introduction to the partners

Associated partners

The **Museum of Cycladic Art**, founded by the Nicholas P. Goulandris Foundation, is renowned for its extensive collection of Cycladic and Ancient Greek artifacts. Located in the heart of Athens, Greece, the museum has established itself as a cultural and educational hub, dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of ancient Aegean and Cypriot art and culture.

Within the context of the AIDA project, the Museum of Cycladic Art played an important role in creating a conducive learning environment for individuals diagnosed with dementia. The museum's involvement included providing access to its collections and spaces for workshops that were designed to align with the project's objectives. These sessions utilized the museum's artifacts as educational tools to engage participants in discussions and activities that stimulated cognitive engagement and creativity.

https://cycladic.gr/en/

MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART
NICHOLAS AND DOLLY GOULANDRIS FOUNDATION

Associated partners

The **Alzheimer Athens Association**, established in 2002, is a pivotal organization in Greece dedicated to supporting individuals affected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, along with their families and caregivers. The association offers a wide range of services, including information dissemination, education, psychological support, and advocacy for better care and research into dementia.

In the AIDA project, the Alzheimer Athens Association was instrumental in recruiting participants for the piloting sessions held at the Museum of Cycladic Art. By leveraging its network and resources, the association facilitated the engagement of a target group that could significantly benefit from the therapeutic and educational activities designed within the AIDA framework.

https://alzheimerathens.gr/en/

ALZHEIMER ATHENS

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Red Riding Hood – Group 1

Group 1:
Number of Participants and Carers:
For the "Red Riding Hood" scenario, there was a participation of 4 individuals diagnosed with dementia and their respective caregivers, making a total of 8 attendees designed to ensure an interactive and supportive environment.

Setting and Layout of the Space:
The scenario took place in a specialized area of the Museum of Cycladic Art, intended for workshops, with a layout conducive to discussion and participation. The space was organized to enable clear visibility and interaction with the session's facilitators, with seating and workstations arranged to facilitate an engaging group dynamic and ensure comfort for both participants and carers.

Artworks, Museum Artefacts, or Exhibits Used:
This session involved a guided exploration of the museum's fourth-floor exhibits, focusing on audiovisual presentations that narrate life in Ancient Cyclades. These exhibits served as stimuli for the participants to discuss their experiences and observations, tying in the ancient world with the storytelling theme of "Red Riding Hood," and encouraged interactive engagement with the content presented.

Participant feedback:

- "I really enjoyed the stories about the ancient people.“ – **Participant**
- "I liked the variety of artifacts.“ - **Caregiver**
- "I kept imagining how they lived back then.“ – **Participant**
- "The museum staff's expertise and warmth made us feel welcome and valued." - **Caregiver**
- "Seeing the old things and hearing the tales was fun.“ – **Participant**

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Red Riding Hood – Group 1

Group 1:
In the "Red Riding Hood" learning scenario, participants explored the Museum of Cycladic Art's fourth-floor exhibits, which featured audiovisual presentations on the daily life and culture of the Ancient Cyclades. This immersive experience served as the foundation for the session's activities, offering a vivid backdrop to discussions about ancient civilizations and their relevance to familiar narratives.

Museum Tour and Activities:
The "Red Riding Hood" scenario included a museum tour focusing on audiovisual exhibits detailing life in the Ancient Cyclades. Participants engaged in discussions led by facilitators, connecting the ancient world to thematic elements similar to those found in traditional stories. This interactive experience encouraged participants to share observations and reflections on the artifacts and presentations they encountered.

Materials Used:
Audiovisual Presentations: Utilized to enrich the storytelling aspect and provide a vivid glimpse into the ancient Cycladic life.

Outputs from the Sessions:
The primary outputs were the conversations and shared experiences among participants and caregivers, sparked by the museum's exhibits. These discussions allowed participants to articulate their interpretations and connections between the ancient artifacts and the familiar narrative structure of stories like "Red Riding Hood," thereby enhancing their engagement with the museum's content.

Learnings:

Participants preferred less structured activities with the flexibility to engage creatively at their own pace.

Tailored Activity Design
Design future sessions with an open structure, allowing for participant-led exploration and interaction, minimizing formalities and paperwork to better meet the group's preferences.

Miscommunication led to participants missing out on activities, showing the need for clearer and more direct information sharing.

Improved Communication Strategies
Implement a multi-layered communication approach, ensuring all details are conveyed effectively and misunderstandings are minimized. This could include visual aids, simplified language, and confirmation checks

The use of masks by staff induced anxiety and mistrust, leading to reduced participant engagement.

Health Precaution Transparency
Implement a clear communication strategy regarding health and safety measures, such as using transparent masks, and provide reassuring information to build trust and comfort among participants.

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Challenges	Solutions
Declining Attendance: Initially, sessions had a start with five pairs of participants and their caregivers, indicating interest. However, as the piloting progressed, there was a notable decline in participation, culminating in a final session where only one pair remained, reflecting a concerning trend of decreasing engagement over time.	1. Establish a system for regular check-ins with participants and caregivers prior to each session. 2. Introduce a flexible attendance policy with options for make-up sessions. 3. Set up a reminder and motivational system via phone calls or texts to encourage attendance. 4. Create a support network among participants to foster a sense of community and accountability.
Scheduling Issues: The chosen timing for the sessions—mornings—was intended to coincide with when caregivers were most available. Despite this, unexpected health-related cancellations, frequently cited as due to illness, disrupted the consistency of attendance and challenged the session schedule.	1. Conduct a pre-piloting survey to identify the best times for sessions. 2. Maintain a reserve list of participants willing to join on short notice. 3. Offer alternative dates and times for those who may have to miss scheduled sessions. 4. Implement a clear cancellation policy with guidelines on how to reschedule.

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Challenges	Solutions
Miscommunication: Communication challenges emerged as a significant barrier, with misinformation contributing to participants' absenteeism or reluctance to engage. This confusion likely stemmed from misaligned expectations or unclear messaging regarding the session's activities, purpose, and value.	1. Appoint a dedicated communication officer to manage information dissemination. 2. Develop clear, jargon-free informational materials to be distributed in multiple formats. 3. Implement a confirmation system to verify that communications are received and understood. 4. Schedule brief Q&A sessions before activities for participants to clarify any doubts.
Participant Preferences: Feedback from those who did attend the sessions revealed a preference for a more relaxed atmosphere. Participants favored activities that were less rigidly structured and involved less paperwork, suggesting a need for a more fluid and participant-driven approach to session planning.	1. Use feedback forms post-sessions to gather insights for improvements. 2. Adapt the structure of sessions incrementally based on participant responses. 3. Incorporate leisure and socialization elements into the session to maintain a relaxed atmosphere.

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Challenges	Solutions
Health and Safety Perceptions: In an effort to adhere to health protocols, facilitators donned masks, an action that inadvertently created anxiety among participants. This response highlighted the sensitivity of the target audience to changes in their environment, impacting their willingness to engage fully in the sessions.	1. Hold an orientation session to explain the purpose and necessity of health protocols. 2. Offer demonstrations of safety measures to alleviate fears and misunderstandings. 3. Provide participants with personalized safety equipment to increase comfort. 4. Allow for open discussions where participants can express their health and safety concerns.

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