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“Tools for skills” - teachers’ training

ERASMUS+ STRATEGIC PARTNERHIP PROJECT
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Dear Partners and other stakeholders in the Tools for Skills project. This is the fifth and last newsletter of the project. The purpose is mainly to give an overview about what has been done in the project so far and a reminder to the project partners what has to be done in the nearest future. It can also be used to inform other stakeholders, for example a steering committee, about the progress of the project.

Most of the activities of the project are now finished and the project contracts ends by the 31 of July and it is time to summarize. First of all , I want to express my gratitude to all partners who I believe has performed at top level taking into account that we all have different resources, background and skills.

The project has been performed with high quality and Stora Segerstad was with the project “Tools for skills – teacher training” nominated as one of the top five organizations for the title “Erasmus+ actor of the year 2018” in Sweden. Unfortunately we didn’t get the first prize, but we were very honored to be a nominee and among the top 5.

Summary of activities

The project activities and results can be summarized as follows.

A leaflet presenting the project was produced, translated into all partner languages and distributed to the partners for dissemination purposes

Two different Web sites were created, one project product web site to be used to popularize the ToolsforskillsTT project, its aims, objectives and outputs; www.cd.diction.net and one project web site – with continually updated online information about all project activities; www.toolsforskills.eu

Power Point Presentation of the project was made for presenting the project at different national and international events; it has been updated periodically in accordance with the project progress;

Press releases, articles, reports on the project has been made, and media has been contacted and informing them about the project, Papers has been published on the developed training materials in specialized newspapers, journals, magazines, etc.

The Intellectual output that was the main product of this project, was the Teachers manual comprising about 300 pages

The planned multiplier events of workshops for teachers were announced nationwide through email campaigns, with the purpose that this would lead to new methodologies and teaching methods not only in forestry and language training but also in other related areas of VET

The project was presented at the Elmia Wood exhibition June 2017. The planned seminar for teachers at Elmia wood was instead held in Solsona Spain June 2016

Newsletter for internal information of the project, was distributed at 5 occasions

"Quarterly reports" together with time reports was submitted by each partner at 5 occasions during the project time

The time for project management and implementation was spent on updating the material of the former Leonardo Toi project " Tools for skills(forest workers glossary, forest workers online training tool www.cd.diction.net) . This included the revision of the 3000 translated words in the partner languages, updating the pictures to the glossary, update the vocabulary with new words concerning simulator training. The case studies were also updated.

The textbooks "working in harvesting teams 1 and 2" were published as e-books and audio books: The transformation of the two books to ebooks (Totally about 600 pages and 600 pictures) has facilitated the access to the books and it will facilitate the updating to new editions in the future, which in turn will secure that the products will be used for a long time after the project period. The property rights of the books stays with the author (www.mieab.se), but the e-version will be freely accessible for the customer at the authors website

The project progress, its outcomes and results has been presented to a Steering Committee in each partner country. The Steering Committee included vocational college and/or university tutors, representatives of SMEs in forest Industry and students in the respective field

A training course was held in Germany for language teachers and vocational teachers that came from schools of the partners in order to prepare them for conducting the workshops (Multiplier events) that was held in the partner countries. The objective was to inspire the teachers to work with a new methodology in language teaching, to become familiar with the elaborated material and to see the

possibilities to combine learning in virtual environment with physical mobility for VET learners altogether 19 participants

The multiplier events were delivered as several workshops for language teachers and vocational teachers from different Vet schools of the partner countries and potentially from neighboring countries. The objective is to inspire the teachers to work with a new methodology in language teaching, to become familiar with the elaborated material and to see the possibilities to combine learning in virtual environment with physical mobility for VET learners Altogether 240 participants

In order to test the methodology of combining virtual learning as a preparation and completion to physical mobility, groups of VET learners from the partners that had access to such students prepared themselves by using the tools for skills material and then went to one of the selected countries to complete the elaborated ECVET units in the partner schools This activity was held in Sweden , Finland, Spain and Germany with participants from Bulgaria, Slovakia, Germany , Spain, Sweden and Finland. Totally 51 participants.

Evaluation

External evaluation has taken place in connection to interim and final report, and here follows a summary of the evaluators conclusions.

The European project "Tools for Skills – Teacher training" has continued by creating education material, teacher training and student mobility. Through a cooperation based on mutual understanding and respect between 7 countries (with very different conditions) , the TFS material has been completed and new learning methods has been developed and tested in order to spread the unique pedagogical methods.

The tested education material with the connected curricula forms a very interesting example on how the combination of teaching specialized vocational subjects and English becomes a successful method for the development of competence in the European Union.

"Tools for Skills" covers three important areas of forestry training.

- 1) Forest machine operation including work safety.
- 2) Environment consideration in connection to machine operation and other forest management activities.
- 3) Social skills for forest workers with aim to reach working level of English in order to be employable in other countries of the union.

The student mobilities give opportunities for language teachers and vocational teachers to work together with international student groups using the education material on highly motivated students. The students can prepare themselves by working with selected parts of the material prior to the mobility period. The mobilities give self-confidence to the involved teachers and students and courage to go further with the personal development.

Recourses from forestry schools and institutions from different parts of Europe have been available for the partner organizations. The representatives from the different partner countries have expressed great content with the possibility to work with the Tools for skills project. The project management has been very professional with a respect for different cultures and a focus on finding flexible solutions.

Tools for skills has a potential to provide solutions to the real needs within the modern, high technological forestry. In the same time different national obstacles need to be overcome. There are possibilities for similar international projects based on the idea of close cooperation between vocational teachers and English teachers.

The Swedish project management has done a very good job with the international development project. TFS has with an efficient and well developed strategy shown what is crucial for sustainable further education – to have more of a broad vision than focus on a narrow special interest, to conquer the English language and build a strong self confidence.