



New Erasmus Plus Project

Since September 2014 six institutions have been working together on the Erasmus Plus project called „SOMEX” – Social Media in Exchanges.

Background

Relevance of vocational education and training has increased during the last years, especially worked-based learning (EQF 3+), which is the bridge between training and labor marked needs, and this is especially the case in construction sector. With the background of economic crisis and rising young people unemployment in a too high number of European countries, workers and especially young ones have to be more mobile than before to find new opportunities, also abroad. By improving the quality and number of mobility placements during young people curricula, we will increase the volume of mobility throughout Europe so as to increase placements in enterprises.

Young people have to be well prepared before going abroad for a mobility process and good preparation is the key point for integration. Obviously, mobility experience will be even more successful and students will be even more easily convinced of its impact and benefits, if a mobility project is well prepared and managed. To that point, it is important to guide them by using new information and

communication technologies as well as social Medias in all phases of VET. Digital and social media as well as mobile devices are omnipresent in daily life of participants who are in initial and further vocational education and training. SoMEx aims at adjusting the mobility processes in construction sector's VET to future leading ways of including the current and prospective mobile devices.

The project will develop an extensive tool-kit for preparation, operation and post processing of exchanges of trainees and staff related to up-to-date media, i.e. social media in use. The SoMEx project addresses the digital natives, who are the overwhelming majority in training/apprenticeship currently and in the future as well. Methods in the process are linked to social media very selectively, but do not use them in a wide specter or channel the informal use into formal use benefits. The number of features to integrate at this point is high. The individuals expect to make use of the same media feature like they do within their private life. In doing so, the acceptance (and the image of the construction sector) will be likely to increase significantly. Trainees and staff might be involved in all stages of the processes, since user generated input in real time is of great advantage to lower the barriers of acceptance and the higher willingness of being part in exchanges.

So the era of coming to classroom and the rule "turn of your devices" have to be rethought.

Results:

After a research phase during a "classical mobility process", we will analyze problems, needs, feelings of people going abroad – before, while, after. On the basis of this comparative analysis a first draft of the "European mobile device in building sectors' exchanges" will be developed, then tested on a real and complete mobility process. On that basis and as an end, our final product will be a comprehensive "**Android Application**", which the young people will have on their smartphones or tablets to help them during the whole mobility process. The SoMEx product will be created for use in construction sectors but could, with some adjustment, be used on every mobility project in different branches and sectors. SoMEx will be a pilot example.

Project Procedure:

- **Research phase:**
 - National and transnational analyse on ICT and social media VET learners and staff in construction sector uses
 - Reports about good practices. This phase will be linked to deeper development of “Linguistic REFORME” Project Partners will agree on common useful tools that could be used (with or without changings) in our mobile device.

- **Mobility observation and analyze – classical way:**
 - National and transitional analyze of a mobility process – before, while, after. Focus on the different moment the app’ will be necessary to improve the process.
 - European App for mobility in VET construction sector - version 1

- **Mobility observation and analyze – APP 1:**
 - National and transnational analyze of mobility process **with APP 1**
 - Improvements on APP 1 on basis of the observation and evaluation on a mobility process → APP2

- **Mobility observation and analyze – APP 2:**
 - National and transnational analyze of mobility process with APP 2
 - Improvements on APP 2 on basis of the observation and evaluation on a mobility process
 - Final Product: “European mobile device in building sectors’ exchanges”

In order to test the products, three physical mobility periods are requested for the staff.

Each partner will prepare and test the product and products’ content during a student’s / trainers’ mobility phase. Construction apprentices / trainees and trainers from each partner country will go abroad for a 3 weeks mobility experience that will take place between January and June because Easter is the best period in construction sector. That will be the opportunity to test the products of this project in real situation. We will in this way have concrete feedback and evaluation on the testing phase that will permit the consortium to adapt / change the process if necessary before disseminating it.

- Mobility 1 - Observation – classical way: between January and June 2016
- Mobility 2 - Test 1 – between January and June 2016:
- Mobility 3 - Test 2 – between January and June 2017:

Partners

A partnership of six organizations has been formed to meet the objectives of this project.



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