



Key Action: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
Action Type: Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

Project Title

Mobile APPs for in-company VET trainers to facilitate the participation of SMEs in apprenticeship programs

Project Coordinator

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Project Information

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Partners Instituto para el fomento del desarrollo y la formación S.L (ES) , ELearning Studios Ltd (UK) , BEST INSTITUT FUR BERUFSBEZOGENE WEITERBILDUNG UND PERSONALTRAINING GMBH (AT) , INNOQUALITY SYSTEMS LIMITED (IE) , INSTITUTO DE SOLDADURA E QUALIDADE (PT) , INSTITOUTO EKPAIDEFTIKOU KAI EPAGGELMATIKOU PROSANATOLISMOU (EL) , IDEProjet (FR)
Topics New innovative curricula/educational methods/development of training courses ; Quality Improvement Institutions and/or methods (incl. school development) ; ICT - new technologies - digital competences

Project Summary

There is strong evidence that work-based learning helps to equip young people with the skills that can improve their employability and ease the transition from school to work. The European Commission has called upon governments, social partners and education and training providers to promote apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning (High-performance apprenticeships & WBL, EC). There is an increasing and urgent need in Europe to boost and support the participation of SMEs in apprenticeship.

Nevertheless, many companies, particularly SMEs, do not see a net benefit in introducing apprenticeships due to associated direct and indirect costs. Although apprenticeships can be a burden to employers, there are also benefits, of which the employers are often unaware. Training young people through WBL represents an important tool to react in a flexible, efficient and concrete way to the needs of the company. In-company trainers responsible for training/mentoring learners benefit by developing their skills and competences as trainers but also by developing new knowledge, since learners bring new perspectives and challenges as they learn.

Compared to large companies, many SMEs have a less advanced training culture and limited training budgets. Very frequently, in-company trainers have not been properly trained, not on specific teaching techniques for WBL, not on how to prepare, organize and manage the participation of the company in an apprenticeship programme, creating some times stress, insecurity and a feeling of burden in the SME's staff. It is also important to train in-company trainers on how to strike the right balance between the company-specific skill needs of the employer and the general employability of the apprentice.

There are many possibilities to alleviate such problems either by training alliances or by external training centres. VET schools, training providers and intermediary bodies may play a key role in helping SMEs, and experience shows a proactive training provider is a key to success.

The aim of APP & TEACH project is to facilitate the participation of SMEs in apprenticeship by equipping in-company VET trainers with the necessary skills and innovative ICT-based tools to support both the management and the training activities involved in apprenticeship programs. To do so, an alliance of VET experts and providers, companies and intermediary bodies from 8 countries (8 countries (Austria, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) will work together to lead the project and co-create and test the following innovative methods and freely accessible OER:

- A European ECVET Curriculum (IO1) and a set of Training Modules (IO2) on Management of Apprenticeships for SMEs.
- An innovative Mobile Instructional Learning APPs (IO3) designed to train teachers and educators from VET schools, training providers and intermediary bodies to use and design multi-level Mobile Learning APPs.
- A Multilingual e-learning platform (IO4), with innovative e-Learning courses and OER on Management of Apprenticeships for SMEs.
- A Guide for validation, certification & accreditation (IO5) of Management of Apprenticeships for SMEs in Europe.

Teachers and educators from VET schools, training providers and intermediary bodies and in-company trainers are the main target users of the project products and in-company trainers are also the final beneficiaries. During the life time of APP & TEACH project, the partnership will directly involve 110 teachers, trainers, and educators from VET schools, training providers and intermediary bodies (32 partners staff / 48 experts involved / 30 target users in pilots), 150 in-company trainers (in pilots) and 550 stakeholders. A wider audience, of a minimum of 1000 recipients, will be reached at local, regional, national and European level through the planned dissemination

activities.

The project will apply European frameworks and instruments, like EQF, ECVET, EQAVET, Europass and EPALE, to promote and boost transparency and recognition of competences and qualifications, transnational mobility and the transferability of the project outputs to other VET experts and providers, companies and intermediary bodies at local, regional, national and European level, with the active support and cooperation of a network of key associated partners and relevant stakeholders involved in the project.

APP & TEACH will have a direct impact on in-company trainers facilitating the participation of SMEs in apprenticeship and on the ICT-based teaching skills of teachers and educators from VET schools, training providers and intermediary bodies and also of in-company trainers. The long term impact envisaged is a strengthening of the VET system and the apprenticeship programmes in Europe

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