



NET-TRAINERS 2

Press Releases

Press Releases published within the Net-Trainers 2 project



Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci

Pilot projects

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1 PRESSRELEASE ACT 271

The European Net-Trainers' Project Starts Growing

A new Leonardo project extends Net-Trainers training to nine European countries – all partners will start the training on 6th March 2006



From three to nine – would be the key theme for the new Net-Trainers 2 project. The European Net-Trainers online qualification for online trainers has run since 2003 in the UK, France and Germany. In March 2006 the

original countries will offer the training together with new partners from Spain, Italy, Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria.

In mid-November e-learning experts from all over Europe met at Furtwangen University, the coordinators for this Leonardo da Vinci project. Detailed discussions were held on the Net-Trainers job profile and training framework which has now been validated in the nine countries. All partners will issue a nationally accredited certificate while at the same time the European Net-Trainers Association, as the consortium of the training providers is called, will award a European Net-Trainers certificate to learners successfully completing the course.

The Net-Trainers training is unique in Europe and is a model for the transfer of online courses into other European languages as well as for the harmonisation of European qualifications. Learners are able, if they choose, to access a Europath and take modules in a second language as the training will run synchronously in the nine participating countries. More than 100 Net-Trainers have already been trained in the three original countries, the UK, France and Germany.

E-learning is becoming more and more important in the education and training sector where research shows online learners need skilful individual support provided by a well-trained online tutor. Net-Trainers use ICT like chat, discussion forums and e-mail, they facilitate group activities, provide individual support and are able to design learning materials. While these competencies are similar all over Europe, current qualifications vary considerably. Net-Trainers is designed to address the issue through the provision of a common European job-profile and training framework for online tutors.

In the coming weeks the training content will be produced in the new languages. Afterwards it will be implemented in the learning environment which allows learners access to all language versions at the same time. Learners from all courses can exchange experiences and discuss aspects of online learning in a European forum.

The Net-Trainers 2 project includes a technical partner from Greece and an Advisory Board with representatives from Romania, Germany, Holland and Hungary. Altogether 15 organisations from 13 European countries will work together on the project for 18 months with longer term cooperation ensured. The coordinators are Furtwangen University in Germany and during our first international meeting the Annual General Assembly of the Net-Trainers Association welcomed the new project partners as members.

Next start: 06th March 2006

Fees : ,- EUR

End of enrolment:

Certificate:

Technical prerequisites:

More information available at www.nettrainers.org

Contact:

2 PRESSRELEASE ACT 275

Net-Trainers for Europe

174 participants from more than nine European countries are being trained online to become Net-Trainers.

174 participants embarked on the European Net-Trainers' online learning course this February, studying in one of nine project languages. Every version of the course shares common learning objectives and a philosophy of online learning, though cultural differences are recognized in the way learning objectives are achieved. Intensive tutoring, individual flexible learning, and a common European certificate are the quality criteria convincing learners all over Europe.

Those with the necessary language skills, a third of the participants, are taking the Europath, which allows learners to take one module in another language. The Europath's most popular second languages are English, French and German.

The learners are enthusiastic about the pilot training, reports Jana Vejvodova, course manager for the Czech training. Her very talented participants are working on, and holding lively discussions about, the learning materials in various languages. More than 70 learners are joining in the European forum, exchanging information about their professional backgrounds and their hopes for the course. The next topic on the agenda of the Euroforum, moderated by experts, is the "Do's and Don'ts of e-learning".

The training has had a fantastic response from the target group, with some countries unable to meet the demand for places, and so creating a waiting list for the next session. On successful completion participants gain a certificate from the "European Net-Trainers Association". The Association also acts to ensure common quality criteria are met, and that the Net-Trainers course continues to develop and improve.

The dissemination of the Net-Trainers online course into six new language versions, together with the management of the transfer process is supported through a Leonardo da Vinci project from the European Commission. The project builds on an earlier Leonardo da Vinci Net-Trainers project, which successfully developed a common job profile and training framework as well as the course materials and tuition methods in English, French and German.

Next session starts 09. October 2006
More information and application form at
www.nettrainers.eu

3 PRESSRELEASE ACT 321

“Additional experiences that are really worthwhile”

The European Learning Path of the Net-Trainers training is demanding for the participants, but a really worthwhile learning experience.

"If there is any possibility, I would recommend that each participant join the European learning path." This is the conclusion drawn by Steffen Reichmann, participant in the current European Net-Trainers course of the tele-akademie of the University of Furtwangen, Germany. He has completed the module about on-line support in a learning group with participants from Great Britain, Denmark and Slovenia with the British partners. As a lecturer at the administrative professional school in Wiesbaden, specialist area police, he is responsible for implementing e-learning and he plans to develop international learning contents for the police.

The European Net-Trainers course teaches design of e-learning courses and the support of on-line learners. The common curriculum has been developed within two projects supported by the European Commission and is available in nine language versions. Successful completers of the course are issued a European certificate from the European Net-Trainers Association. In the context of the European learning path the participants can complete an individual module in another language. They are supported then by tutors in the respective national language. All learning contents are stored on a learning platform that can be accessed by the participants from all language versions of the training.

The English version of the European on-line course was the most popular amongst the 174 participants from the nine language versions. In addition to English, French and German the course is offered for the first time in Spanish, Italian, Danish, Polish, Czech and Bulgarian. As well as the English version the French, Spanish, Polish, Italian and German versions of the course has attracted participants on the European learning path.

Completing the module in English was clearly more time-consuming for Steffen Reichmann, as he needed more time to express himself in a foreign language and to understand specific terms as well as colloquial. But it was a really worthwhile experience. The cultural differences in communication could be understood via on-line contact. While in the German course communication is

quite straightforward he felt in the British version people were more polite and it was important to interpret nuances.

Every contribution to the forum was welcomed. In other cultures learners might rather make no contribution than a wrong one. He experienced the support of the English tutor as exemplary. She encouraged everyone to express themselves and to actively take part in the discussions. He was also surprised by the different design of the learning contents. While in Germany much importance is attached to theory, British contents give short and precise definitions followed by weblinks to additional reading and learning activities for exploring the specific topics.

23 of 174 participants completed a module in another language. Sufficient language skills must be proven at the beginning of the Europath module. In order to gain experiences with the extended European learning path, the number of exchange-learners has been limited. The capacity is to be increased however in future sessions.

Julia Duggleby is the course manager with the English provider South Yorkshire Colleges and has supported a learning group on the European learning path. From her perspective the Europath was very successful. The new participants added to the course and also the English participants have been brought closer to the European dimension of the training. This is also the result from evaluation amongst the learners: Participants are really satisfied with the European learning experience they have had.

The next session of Net-Trainers is starting on October 9th, 2006

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Net-Trainers are well prepared

New standards guarantee the quality of the training of Net Trainers - participants rate the European on-line course “very good”.

More than 170 participants in nine European countries have taken the European Net Trainers course and 92 % of them would recommend the training to their colleagues. One of these is Tom Savu from the Polytechnic University of Bucharest (Romania) who joined the English version of Net-Trainers:

“The Net Trainers course offered me, in a professional way, the know-how and the tools for online tutoring at a high-quality level.

If I am now prepared for the challenge of supporting learners on-line, this is due to the excellent Net Trainers team.”

The *<name of your university>* is the provider of the *<your national language>* version and has joined the Net-Trainers 2 project, funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme of the European Union. The project aim was to disseminate the Net-Trainers training, originally developed by partners from France, the UK and Germany into 6 new partner countries. Within the project quality guidelines have been developed that are binding for each NT provider. The guidelines are related to aspects of ethical recruitment, technical platform, development of learning contents, tutoring of participants, as well as assessment.

Dr. Thomas Jechle German coordinator of the NT 2 project underlines the importance of high level quality standards: „Especially in a consortium that allows national differences in the learning contents and activities of the course it is of utmost importance to follow the same strict quality guidelines. The aim of Net-Trainers is to allow as much flexibility as possible in order to reflect diversity of learning cultures and traditions and at the same time guarantee common standards that are the basis for the European Certification.”

98% of the participants from all countries involved in the pilot training rated as positive the support they have had from their tutors. „The recipe for success of Net-Trainers is according to *<name of the course manager>* not only the European Dimension of the course, but the wide range of methods applied as well as the exemplary tutorial support. This estimation is shared by the Czech Centre for Distance Education that has awarded their annual prize to Net-

Trainers, appreciating particularly the European Dimension of the training as well as the tutorial support.

Next starting date of the course:

Duration:

Closing date:

Course fee:

Further information:

<http://www.tele-ak.de>

<http://www.nettrainers.org/de>