

Executive summary

The textile business must be flexible, innovative and creative in order to meet the demands of ever faster changing markets. The required knowledge in the vertical chain (textile industry - textile trade - craft) can only be provided with the help of modern information and communication technologies.

The key to this is increasing the quality of the vocational training in the textile business so that new abilities and competence are developed. The development of the e-learning platform "Virtual Interior Textiles Academy" leads the way there and is an efficient strategy for building an innovative infrastructure of education which is orientated towards vocational training, additional qualifications and learning as a lifelong process.

The platform is supported by a strong association of co-operating partners with best practice know-how and it is open to those who offer as well as to those who require education. Their services will be offered by means of internet learning modules. The already existing resource will be optimised in a communicative and co-operative association for the development of the intended new learning concepts and for innovation.

The developed e-learning platform "Virtual Interior Textiles Academy" will be a scalable, multilingual online-user platform with a standardised interface for the development of learning modules (web based training). It will be integrated as a fixed component into vocational training and advanced training (e.g. by means of certified training courses) and it will include extensive contents in form of learning modules and tests. Learning contents and learning processes will be adapted into a multimedia virtual world (text, graphics, animation, interactive elements). The didactics of the new learning medium internet will be considered here as well as providing reference documents for teachers, trainers and those who offer training courses. Also information, explanations and advice about learning processes and their billing, budgeting and co-ordination will be given on this platform.

Further important qualities of this virtual learning medium are interactive e-learning coaching, advanced learning up to a standard of certified exams and methods of self-evaluation. In addition to that the Virtual Interior Textiles Academy is orientated towards target groups and thus equalises disadvantages of certain groups such as low-qualified or unemployed people or women after their child bearing years. The contents are drawn up as integrated learning concepts which can either be used solely as internet training courses or in a combination of internet and attending learning classes.

The product which has been created at the end of the project is a virtual educational platform for the area of interior textiles.

To try to achieve this by means of classical ways of education such as seminars and advanced training courses, especially regarding lifelong learning, can only fail. On the one hand, many potentially interested groups such as small or handicraft businesses might not be reached, on the other hand the additional costs for such advanced training courses are too high especially for small businesses. Furthermore long journeys involved when the training courses take place far away would cause a loss of up to three working days even though the course only takes one day. On top of that a decentralised area-wide course offer leads to high charges for the course because this would require a large stock of teachers which causes high additional expenses



Technical objectives

The aim of this project "VITA" is the development of the e-learning platform "Virtual Interior Textiles Academy". For this didactical concepts are being developed, different European partners are creating sample learning modules, the platform is being tested in practice and optimised.

In addition to developing the e-learning platform also reference documents are being written which will show the user (i.e. also teachers and trainers) later on how to utilise the platform.

The e-learning platform as such is a scalable, multilingual online-user platform with a standardised interface for the development of learning modules (web based training). It will be integrated as a fixed component into vocational training and advanced training (e.g. by means of certified training courses) and it will include extensive contents in form of learning modules and tests.

Learning contents and learning processes will be adapted into a multimedia virtual world (text, graphics, animation, interactive elements). In future the contents can of course be extended and the platform is available to all potential users in the area of interior textiles

Workpackages

1. Compiling a booklet of technical duties,
2. Bringing learning contents into line with each other,
3. Internet-didactic ,
4. Creating learning modules,
5. Linking the modules,
6. Field tests,
7. Distributing the results.

Partners

EURATEX - European Apparel and Textile Organization

European Carpet Association

EuraLab Limited (UK)

Febeltex (B)

Interessengemeinschaft der Deutschen Heimtextilien-Industrie e.V. (IG) (DE)

James Weekers VOF (NL)

Österreichisches Textil-Forschungsinstitut (ÖTI) (AT)

Reflact A.G (DE)

Teppichwerk Neumünster GmbH (TWN) (DE)

Textiles & Flooring Institute GmbH (DE)

Union Francaise des Tapis Moquettes (UFTM) (FR)

University of Minho (PT)

