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VIRTUAL LEARNING FOR THE MANAGMENT OF SUCESSFULL SMEs

Newsletter

March 2010

EDITORIAL

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Partners meet in Rome

From January 24th – January 26th organized Dida Network Srl the 4th partner meeting of VITA virtual training in Rome.

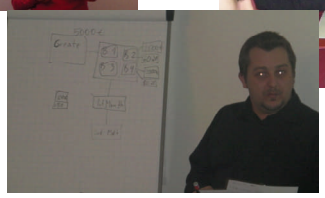
João Varajão (UTAD) presented results of the survey. Responses were received from 154 SME entrepreneurs from five different countries.

Based on these results were selected nine competences and partners started to prepare in the groups, training plan for these modules.

.Partners discussed together that it's very challenging to build training in Second Life. More innovative ideas are needed and also the expertise in Second life tools.

Fortunatly we had the trainers with with us and we formed the groups so that they represented both the expertise of SL curriculum content and production expertise.

The collaboration experience was very profitable for the progress of the project.



Competence Modules

- Communication skills
- Build and lead teams
- Negociation and decision.making abilities
- Ability to control and manage costs, gross and net
- Ability to discover opportunities
- Project management abiliity
- Ability to create and provide strategic/operational plans
- Time managment for own work work and team
- Ability to create strategic, tactic, operational plans

IN THIS EDITION:

Training competence modules 1

Example for a module training in SL 2

Contributes of stakeholder — ISOL 3

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Example of training plan for “Project management ability”

Description

Using the given/alocated resources to the project, the group will be have to chose the "right" resources from all availabe and to create a "small" timesheet (eg. Gantt chart) considering the defined activities.

Learning Tools

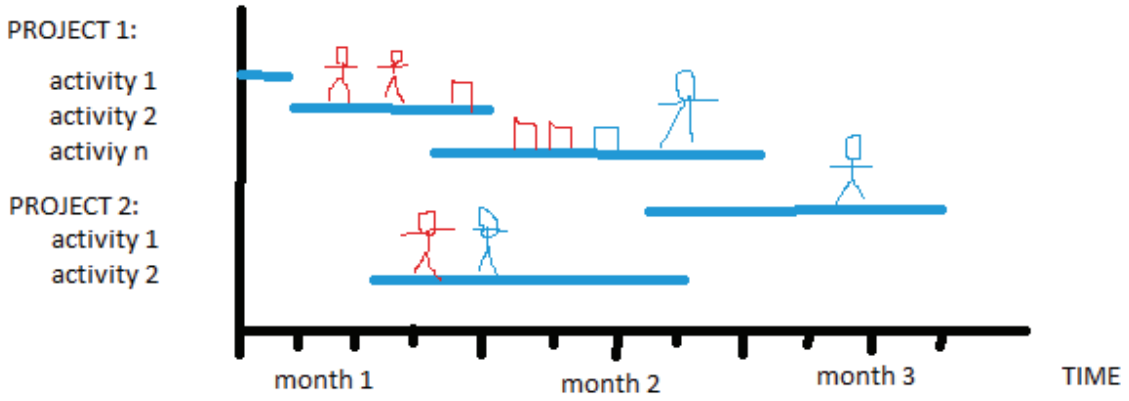
A simple gantt char tool will be needed. Each group will get the resources available for them (robots and objects representing human and non-human resources) from a "shelf"/"closet" of resources. Each robot representing human resources will have the following attributes:

- name;
- set of competences (description, v.g. "knows how to plan a project");
- availability (v.g. "one day a week", "only fridays", "all the time"...);
- productivity (v.g. "produces 8 products by hour").

Each object representing non-human resources will have the following attributes: name, characteristics (v.g. "machine that produces product X"), productivity (v.g. "machine produces 20 products by hour"), availability (v.g. "avaliable only in the second month of the project").

Each group will have shelves (for instance), each one representing one week. Each group will need to put the shelves (lines) in the "chart editor" and to put in them the available resources (robots and objects), according with competences, productivity and time constraint (availability).

Activities



Contributes of stakeholder — ISFOL

Dott. **Domenico Barricelli**, labour sociologist and expert in PMEs, was invited to join the partners during the meeting in Rome and share some relevant finding about training in and for SMEs, both in Europe and in Italy, in representation of ISFOL (Institute for the Development of Vocational Training of Workers).

According the the graphics, in 2005, the average of companies offering training to there employees (course based or not) was 60%. However the same measure in countries participating in VITA project was quite far: e.g. Italy: 32%.

Regarding the relevance of investment in SMEs, it was highlighted that the European Union recognises that the strategic importance of MPI is 98% of the whole emprepreneur struture of Europe— which is constituted in 92% by microemterprises (corresponding to 50,2% of labour market).

ISFOL is a public research body. It provides and promotes study, research, testing, documentation, evaluation, information, advice and technical assistance for the development of vocational training, social policies and labor.

More information at: www.isfol.it

Opening event virtual campus

The consortium has decided to devote the Campus opening day to Vita project presentation, explaining its purposes and the methods used to pursue it.

The opening event happened on the 16th March 2010, both virtual and physical locations: Lisbon and Bucharest, simultaneously.

The purpose of the event was also to reflect on the issues of management training in general and training in immersive environments.

Thanks to the presence of some European experts, the guests had the opportunity to take a look at other European experiences in the same sector.

PROGRAMME

- **Welcoming, partners and event presentation**
- **Project presentation**
- **Vita Campus presentation and tour**
- **Course Example— Deliverly of the module "Communication Skills"**
- **Sharing Experiences. Speakers:**

Marga Perez - MUVEnation

IBM Portugal

- **Open debate and conclusions**

Opening event in diferent locations

ROMANIA

Our partner CCIB has prepared the real sessions for guests from Bucharest Polytechnic School and for the training company FORMREG. Invited experts from these 2 local partners will participate as trainers in the VITA course.

FINLAND

In Hyvinkää there were two Chinese teachers learning about the Finnish school system. They took part of the event with two Finnish participants. On second life there were two Finnish SME entrepreneurs, who are very interested to be trainees in the pilot experience.

ITALY

In Rome, the event had 23 guests from a range of potential users and targets for the results of the project, such as: Comune di Roma, RSO (Consulting, Technology and Training), University of l'Áquila , ISFOL, Centro Studi Servizi e Formazione per lo Sviluppo e Defesa dell'Impresa., SOGIN.

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese team joined in Lisbon, in the headquarters of IBM Portugal to carry together the opening event. This moment was also a great opportunity to gather the technical group fro the development of learning tools

"Is RL (real life) teaching expertise transferable in SL (Second Life) teaching expertise?"

During the opening event, Margarita Perez (MUVEnation) concluded that:

- **Technical expertise can have greater impact impacts over teaching expertise the success of hands-on work-shops.**
- **RL expertise does not translate immediately in SL teaching expertise.**
- **'Interaction policies' and 'Didactic strategies for individualisation of learning in a short synchronous session' are among the factors that impact the most hands-on workshops.**

Get in touch ...

WEB

HTTP://VITA.BITMEDIA.CC
HTTP://VITAPROJECT.BLOGSPOT.COM
HTTP://SLURL.COM/SECONDLIFE/VITA%20PROJECT/5/215/38/

Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.