

Organic Agriculture E-learning (FINESSA)

2008-1-F11-LEO05-00455

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=4607>

Information sur le projet

Titre: Organic Agriculture E-learning (FINESSA)

Code Projet: 2008-1-FI1-LEO05-00455

Année: 2008

Type de Projet: Projets de transfert d'innovation

Statut: Clôturé

Pays: FI-Finlande

Accroche marketing: The marketing text will be added later.

Résumé: Organic production is the fastest growing segment of the European agriculture sector and with growing environmental awareness, this trend is set to continue. To meet the market demand and various policy objectives many of the member states have set goals for the pace at which the percentage share of agricultural land under organic production should increase. One major obstacle in the way of such goals is limited availability of vocational education in organic agriculture and horticulture in many member states. When organic education is available the geographical location often is an obstacle, especially for those already working, in conventional agriculture wanting to convert or in organic agriculture, but lacking educational basis. The FINESSA project aims to make vocational education in organic agriculture and horticulture available to all those who will benefit from regardless of their varying professional, geographic, age and other situations. The project's aim is vocational education that is particularly well suited for people already in the workforce, an education that turns workplaces in organic agriculture enterprises into learn-spaces. The project transfers and combines innovations from three other vocational education projects: The Portfolio of Evidence (PoE), an innovation of the PROVOTRAIN project, is a system of assessing workplace learning in a three party co-operation of the learner, the employer and the school. In the ECO-JOB AP project an e-learning platform has been constructed for the training of farm advisers of organic farming, in FINESSA this will be adapted to form the electronic framework for making education available regardless of geographic location of the learner. The training modules of the ENSA project will serve as the foundation of the body of learning materials available to teach the organic agriculture subjects in school, at work and over the internet. The FINESSA partnership from Finland, Spain and the UK consists of education partners and organic farmers' associations. The education partners are all familiar with both formal education and various forms of life long learning efforts, such as apprenticeships. The association partners have an important role in ensuring that the outcomes are befitting the needs of the industry. Two of the disseminating partners are from new member states, Bulgaria and Latvia, one is the Netherlands based International Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture Training (IFSAT). The project will produce in each of the receiving countries a dedicated e-learning program for vocational education in organic agriculture, a supporting system of assessing workplace learning and a body of education modules and teaching materials. During the project teachers will be trained to work with the products and the piloting will reveal points of fine tuning. The long term impact of the project will be more and better organic agriculture and therefore healthier food and a healthier environment for future generations of European citizens.

Description: The FINESSA curriculum for EQF Level 3 VET in Organic production (Agriculture and/or horticulture) consists of 7 core competence modules and several elective modules.

To support the curriculum, the project developed sample elearning courses around several of the modules in all three languages (FI,EN,ES) and most of these courses are freely accessed in the project MOODLE found at <http://www.finessa.net/>

In addition the project adapted and developed further the concept and tools of the

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Portfolio of Evidence, a toolkit for the learner (in collaboration with the teacher and a workplace mentor) to gather assessable evidence of competencies acquired at the workplace.

Some of the modules were piloted in all of the target countries and in all of the target countries the project has resulted in new VET possibilities in organic production.

In addition the project adapted the concept of the Portfolio of Evidence to help learners provide evidence of competencies acquired in the work place.

- Thèmes:
- *** Développement durable
 - *** Formation tout au long de la vie
 - *** Validation, transparence, certification
 - *** Formation ouverte et à distance
 - *** Orientation professionnelle
 - *** Écologie
 - *** Formation continue
 - ** Utilisation et diffusion de résultats
 - * TIC
 - * Formation initiale

Sectors:

Types de Produit: Description de nouveaux métiers
Matériel d'apprentissage
Transparence et certification
Modules
Site Internet
Enseignement à distance

Information sur le produit: The final products include the curriculum handbook, the portfolio of evidence handbook and piloting evaluation available on the project websites and the elearning courses available in the project MOODLE (<http://www.finessa.net/>).

The most concrete results however are the VET programs started by partners as a direct result of the project and piloting: the organic horticulture program at KEUDA, FI and the Apprenticeship program of Soil Association, UK and MOODLE based distance learning offered by SEAE, ES

Page Web du projet: www.finessa.org

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Partenaire

Partner 1

Nom: Soil Association Certification Ltd
Ville: Bristol
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Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 2

Nom: Barony College
Ville: Dumfries
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 3

Nom: International Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture Training (IFSAT Foundation)
Ville: Harderwijk
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 4

Nom: Finnish Organic farmers' association
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Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partenaire

Partner 5

Nom: KEUDA Vocational College
Ville: Saarentaus
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 6

Nom: Spanish Society for Organic Farming
Ville: Catarroja, Valencia
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 7

Nom: Nevares Institute for Agricultural Entrepreneurs
Ville: Valladolid
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Produits

- 1 Course Guide for the FINESSA Blended Learning Program
- 2 The Portfolio of Evidence Guide
- 3 FINESSA e-learning
- 4 FINESSA Piloting Evaluation Report
- 5 FINESSA inventory of needs
- 6 FINESSA promotional website

Produit 'Course Guide for the FINESSA Blended Learning Program'

Titre: Course Guide for the FINESSA Blended Learning Program

Type de Produit: Programme/curriculum

Texte marketing: The Course Guide describes the blended learning model for a competence based vocational education at Level-3 and the modular curriculum for commercial organic agriculture/horticulture production created by the FINESSA project.

Description: The FINESSA blended learning model has a strong emphasis on acquiring competencies through work place learning, supported by e-learning, in commercial organic production units (e.g. farm or horticultural operation). The program can be adapted to both college based VET programs as well as apprenticeship programs.

The modules of the FINESSA curriculum list the learning aims that make up the competencies required of a professional in organic production. They have been written together by associations representing the specific industry (i.e. organic producers' associations) and VET providers. They therefore meet well the needs and the realities of the industry as well as fit the current European understanding of competence based vocational education. The assessment scenarios emphasise the use of evidence gathered in work place learning to demonstrate the competencies acquired by the learner.

The Course Guide gives suggestions to VET providers in designing individual learning paths for learners. The aim has been to transform the role of the VET teacher from a knowledge transferrer to a learning facilitator.

Cible: The target group of the Guide are the VET providers and designers and producers' associations providing training or apprenticeships in the fields of agriculture/horticulture.

Résultat: The program described is used by the project partners and is freely available on the internet for all interested parties.

Domaine d'application: Designing and running of VET programs in the field of organic production

Adresse du site Internet: www.finessa.org

Langues de produit: finnois
anglais
espagnol

Produit 'The Portfolio of Evidence Guide'

Titre: The Portfolio of Evidence Guide

Type de Produit: Méthodes d'évaluation

Texte marketing: The Portfolio of Evidence is a structured method with which the learner together with the employer/work place mentor can gather and provide evidence of competencies acquired by the learner in work place learning.

The evidence gathered in the learners portfolio can be used by VET providers for assessment purposes and for the learner it is also a way to give future employers solid evidence of their skills and abilities to apply their knowledge in real work situations.

The PoE Guide has been created in co-operation of another LLP TOI project, POETÉ.

Description: The PoE Guide describes the three way agreement between the learner, employer and VET provider. Each party in the agreement has specific responsibilities in ensuring that the evidence gathered meet the requirements for assessment against the given learning outcomes of the competencies required for qualification in a specific VET program.

The Guide describes in detail each of the suggested tools and methods for evidence gathering and gives indications for which type of competencies each tool is best suited for.

The tools described in the Guide are referred to in the FINESSA Course Guide and modules.

Cible: The target groups of the Portfolio of Evidence are the three parties in workplace learning (learner, employer/work place mentor and the VET provider) but the prime target group of the Guide are the VET providers and designers.

Résultat: The methods are used by the FINESSA project partners in VET programs in the field of organic production, but can be used in any vocational field. The Guide is freely available on the internet to all interested parties.

Domaine d'application: The Guide is used in designing and operating VET programs.

Adresse du site Internet: www.finessa.org

Langues de produit:

Produit 'FINESSA e-learning'

Titre: FINESSA e-learning

Type de Produit: Enseignement à distance

Texte marketing: The FINESSA elearning components have been realised on a Moodle platform and consist of separate courses for the modules of the FINESSA curriculum in organic production (agriculture/horticulture) in the national languages of the project's target countries (FI, EN, ES).

Description: The FINESSA moodle was initially intended as a test bed for project piloting by selected members of the producer association partners in the project and for use as the project extranet. However once the partners became familiar with Moodle and starting drafting courses it was seen valuable to make most of it accessible more widely.

The learning content within the courses are structured according to the learning outcomes of the modules and are followed by assignments. There are also course and topic specific discussion forums.

The FINESSA elearning is intended to be used as an element of the FINESSA blended program together with work place learning and contact meetings (either in school or at work places). It has not been designed for pure distance learning uses. It can also be used as a structured resource base for everyone interested in organic production.

Cible: The main target groups are learners and teachers/facilitator, but anyone interested can register as a user to view the materials.

Résultat: The FINESSA Moodle site has been in use during and after piloting. Though the VET provider partners have their own Moodles for the students to use, the FINESSA Moodle is used by the association partners in support of their training activities and the course development will continue and new institutional users can be included. All interested parties can register as users and access most of the courses.

Domaine d'application: Elearning to support competence based VET in organic production (agriculture/horticulture)

Adresse du site Internet: www.finessa.net

Langues de produit: espagnol

Produit 'FINESSA Piloting Evaluation Report'

Titre: FINESSA Piloting Evaluation Report

Type de Produit: Autres

Texte marketing: The report on the external evaluation of the piloting activities in the FINESSA project point to the strenghts and the areas needing further development in the parts of the FINESSA blended learning program that were tested by piloting.

Description: Piloting was carried out in all of the target countries with a varying number of persons of whom most were learners in VET programs or apprenticeship programs and courses run by the association partners.

The report on the evaluation conducted by an external evaluator is based on interviews of learners and teachers.

It points to areas which were considered good by the participants as well high lights areas needing attention and further development.

Cible: The primary target group were the project partners for whom the feedback is relevant in the use and further development of the project results. The report is available on the internet and will be useful for parties interested in using the FINESSA blended program or in developing it in future projects.

Résultat: The findings of the evaluator have helped the project partners in making better use of the project results.

Domaine d'application: VET quality development

Adresse du site Internet: www.finessa.org

Langues de produit: anglais

Produit 'FINESSA inventory of needs'

Titre: FINESSA inventory of needs

Type de Produit: Autres

Texte marketing: The inventory of needs for organic production VET in the target countries (FI, UK, ES) at the start of the projects guided the project partners identify the most significant target groups with a perceived need for or interest in such education. The FINESSA blended learning program was designed with the specific audiences in mind.

Description: The findings of the partners showed that there is a clear demand for VET in the field of organic production.

The most significant target groups were identified as newcomers into agriculture/horticulture, young adults and adults, most with urban backgrounds and usually having previous vocational or academic education and often professional experiences from another field. This group was identified as having strong, often ideologically based motivation and interest in organic production and often good cognitive and ICT-skills, but very little of the practical skills related to the competencies in organic (or any) agriculture/horticulture production.

Although other groups were also identified, this was the group that was taken as the focus of the FINESSA curriculum development activities.

Cible: The main target group of the inventory were the FINESSA project partners involved in curriculum development. However the report is available on the internet and it may be useful for parties interested in future development of the project products or other activities in the same field in the target countries.

Résultat: The inventory guided the development of the other products in FINESSA.

Domaine d'application: Curriculum development

Adresse du site Internet: www.finessa.org

Langues de produit: anglais

Produit 'FINESSA promotional website'

Titre: FINESSA promotional website

Type de Produit: Site Internet

Texte marketing: The FINESSA promotional website provides basic information about the project, partner contacts and links to project products.

Description: The project website serves promotional purposes of giving interested parties basic information on the project and access to the products, including the FINESSA Moodle site.

Cible: All parties interested in organic VET development.

Résultat: The site has made new parties aware of the project and the partners.

Domaine d'application: Promotion

Adresse du site Internet: www.finessa.org

Langues de produit: espagnol