

VET for Over 50 Employees through Multi-Feature Platform

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Research results:

A field research was carried out in Bulgaria, Poland, Spain and France within the framework of the VOIP project in the first half of this year. 150 employers and 150 employees (aged over 50, working in SME sector) from each of the countries, according to the project assumptions, took part in the research. The ultimate aim of the research was to analyse the training needs of the employees in order to adjust the content of the courses and the e-learning platform. Another aim was to recognise the requirements of employers against 50+ employees. The main research issue was to establish the advancement level and content of the courses, organised within the framework of the VOIP project, according to the preferences of its potential participants as well as managers from the SME sector.

The respondents were given a few possibilities to answer our questions:

- Traditional paper questionnaire, delivered directly to the respondent
- On-line questionnaire placed on the project website accessible for the target group
- Questionnaire in the electronic form, sent to respondent's mail (previously arranged via e.g. telephone)
- Questionnaire that was filled in during a telephone conversation

We would like to present you the main results of the research:

- The employees find themselves very useful in their workplaces, regardless their age; they mention the different nature of the “virtual” contact than traditional one as a barrier to e-learning – therefore the material should contain information on types of and benefits from the Internet-based contacts.
- In majority, the employees could not answer whether they would like to use teleworking – it may be caused by the lack of knowledge related to the topic, therefore it seems necessary to include teleworking issues within the ICT course.
- The respondents would like to use an open (to everyone) Internet forum. The majority of the respondents find the face-to-face as the best method of contact (84% of the respondents) – it suggests that the

courses should be adjusted in a way that offers an individual work with a trainer.

- The research shows that employees are willing to learn about MS Office, with a particular emphasis on Word and Excel, as well as Internet browsers and e-mail.

- The respondents indicated the need of practical adjustment of the language courses to meet beneficiaries' needs – it should be reflected by balanced exercises which are to be completed both on-line or under an eye of a tutor.

- Majority of employers does not expect from their employees an advanced knowledge related to foreign languages – from their point of view the most important thing is to be able to obtain or transmit information related to their work as well as to be able to establish basic communication. Employers indicate diligence and honesty as the most important characteristics of an employee; then it is work experience. The results suggest to put an emphasis on communication and performance (Social Competences).

These results are only a sample of the overall results. All the results were collected in National Reports and Final Report. The obtained results have their reflection in our courses and e-learning platform.



DG Edukacja i Kultura
Program „Uczenie się przez całe życie”
Leonardo da Vinci

E-Learning platform

The Dokeos package was designed to develop and share e-learning materials. It allows users to access courses, check their progress, contact with a tutor as well as to exchange their thoughts with other users of the service. The users have the opportunity to experience the training material which is presented in an interactive form and to check their knowledge using a variety of tests. In order to take part in a course it is necessary to enrol on one – which will allow to track progress and, therefore, to measure the level of knowledge. The contact with other users, synchro-

nous and asynchronous, is provided by forum and chat mechanisms. Forum allows to sent automatic e-mail notifications when something new appears in the thread which is tracked by a user. Dokeos is a multilingual platform which allows user to choose a suitable interface language and, additionally, will link him/her to the courses and forum in his chosen language.

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Meeting in Paris

The next (third) partnership meeting will be held in Paris on 7-8 October. Partners from Poland, France, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain will meet again in order to discuss the most important aspects related to the further process of the VOIP project realisation. These include, among others, activities related to the e-learning platform, the substantive content of the courses and their technical aspects.