



**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LEARNING THROUGH
A UNIFIED CURRICULUM (ATLEC)**

Progress Report

Public Part

Project information

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Beneficiary organisation: Oak Field School and Sports College

Project coordinator: Karel Van Isacker
Project coordinator organisation: PhoenixKM
Project coordinator telephone number: 0032496334056
Project coordinator email address: karel@phoenixkm.eu

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Executive Summary

Studies throughout Europe under [ACCESSIBLE](#) and [AEGIS](#) (FP7 projects), and KA3 project [ImPaCT](#) highlighted in their pan-European surveys with over 1000 end-users and AT (Assistive Technologies) specialists that training is the core barrier towards using AT by end-users. This lack of training is subsequently also recognised as main barrier to assume a daily job in a regular working environment.

Although there are European initiatives such as EASTIN (www.eastin.info), which already gather (partial) ISO structured databases on AT, the actual ICT AT training is lacking, or not meeting the needs of the end-users. Although there are a number of initiatives on AT across the EU such as ATVET (UK), Blind people in Qualification (Austria), IMPACT, Keeping Pace with Assistive Technology (IT), they mainly address training of the trainers and professionals working with people with disabilities, and not the actual beneficiaries (people with disabilities) which remain largely unaware of the ICT AT that is there for them. ATLEC fills this gap and focuses on training the learners in specific skills particularly tailored according to their individual and employability needs, while also creating the job profile of ICT AT trainer.

The innovation of this project lies with the user centred design approach as well as the individual tailoring of the ATLEC curriculum and training materials to the learners' needs, combined with the implementation of mobile learning objects to support the training, as well as applying mentoring as an additional supportive aspect of the ATLEC training services. The focus is on the person with disability (his/her needs and abilities as a learner), as well as the trainer. Also the pedagogical methodologies are innovative, using blended learning (F2F, online and mobile), resulting in accessible WCAG2.0 compliant learning/training objects, which are thus exchangeable with other learning initiatives.

All ATLEC learning objects, training material and mobile applications will also be offered through the platform of the [ViPi project](#) (KA3-ICT, 511792-LLP-1-2010-1-GR-KA3-KA3NW) which was launched in 2012, and which is coordinated by PhoenixKM. Training the end-users in appropriate usage of ICT-based AT means also teaching them new skills, digital competencies, learning to learn skills (key competencies), empowering them with a greater confidence, adaptability and a more positive attitude towards risk taking and access to an otherwise still to a large degree inaccessible physical, technological and attitudinal employment environment. Apart from providing them the knowledge about AT ICT usage, and what is most appropriate for their specific disability, a mentoring scheme will be set up in 2013 and ran in workplaces in Belgium and Greece, directly linking the knowledge and skills acquired with the practice, while also facing the reality in the working environment. Last but not least the job profile of ICT AT trainer and the workplace mentoring scheme qualifying people with disabilities from unemployed, unqualified into qualified trainers will greatly increase their self-esteem, confidence and provide them with easier access to the regular labour market, as well as create new employment opportunities for the People with Disabilities communities. In the long term, this will lessen the social and economic burden.

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1. Project Objectives

The project aims to firstly **raise awareness of ICT AT** through an elaborate curriculum, and secondly to provide **adequate learning support to both learners and trainers** (for them a handbook will be available in combination with the curriculum) to ensure the ICT AT needed for each individual is known and well understood using web 2.0 technologies, as well as mobile learning services. Ensuring that thereby the individual needs and concerns are met is a necessity for a successful implementation

ATLEC's concrete objectives are:

- To create a specific **ICT AT curriculum** taking into account individual needs/different disabilities;
 - **Customise** the curriculum and nationally adapt it (pilots in UK, BE, GR and IT), including also localising it to the needs of the pilot user groups that will be involved;
 - Publish the training materials as both traditional paper version and **exchangeable learning objects (SCORM compliant learning courses)**.
 - Establish **a trainer's handbook** that will accompany the ICT AT curriculum.
- To deploy an **online as well as mobile learning platform** that will enrich the learning experience;
 - To support the **development of innovative ICT-based content, services (both mobile and online, as well as F2F)**, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning, freely available;
 - To provide all training materials and learning objects in a fully **accessible** manner for all types of disabilities in different formats;
 - To publish all tools and learning objects for free under a **creative commons license**, while also providing it through the VIPI-portal.
- To make the working environment more accessible for PwDs by implementing a **novel, contemporary and benchmarked learning in ICT AT solution**;
 - To foster the integration of learning via the ATLEC curriculum, by **establishing mentoring schemes** and providing **workplace training** as a basis for the development of vocational skills relevant to the labour market needs;
 - To increase the employability of People with disabilities at the work place **by teaching them new skills for new jobs**.
- To prepare the **necessary steps for qualifying people with disabilities as ICT AT trainers**;
 - To introduce the curriculum to **local VET centres, special education and employment centres**;
 - To prepare a job profile of ICT AT trainer.

2. Project Approach

As a DOI project, ATLEC combines a variety of methods such as desktop and literature research, investigation and identification of good practice models, etc. However; a core element is the direct contact with stakeholders and targeted end-user groups since they guide the work into a direction that will yield the best results. Where this is not possible, contacts are made using email, Skype and telephone, while the project has also embraced social media such as Twitter and Facebook to reach the wide community that can potentially benefit from ATLEC's outcomes.

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Also the pedagogical methodologies will be innovative, using blended learning (F2F, online and mobile), resulting in accessible WCAG2.0 compliant learning/training objects, which are thus exchangeable with other learning initiatives. All ATLEC learning objects, training material and mobile applications will also be offered through the platform launched by the VIPI project (KA3-ICT, 511792-LLP-1-2010-1-GR-KA3-KA3NW), and which is coordinated by PhoenixKM.

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3. Project Outcomes & Results

- 1.1 Communication strategy
- 1.2 IPR agreement
- 1.3 Project steering group minutes
- 1.4 National advisory board minutes
- 2.1 Online Survey questionnaire ([EN](#), [NL](#), [EL](#), [IT](#))
- 2.1 Consolidated survey findings
- 3.1 ATLEC Curriculum and handbook
- 3.2. ATLEC Training courses
- 3.3 Mobile learning application
- 4.1 Pilot plan
- 4.2 Pilot findings
- 5.1 Quality strategy document
- 5.2 External evaluation report -interim & final
- 6.1 Dissemination strategy
- 6.2 National dissemination materials
 - Leaflets ([NL](#), [EN](#), [EL](#), [IT](#))
 - Rollup banners ([NL](#), [EN](#), [EL](#), [IT](#))
 - Posters ([NL](#), [EN](#), [EL](#), [IT](#))
- 6.3 Multilingual project website at www.atlec-project.eu (English, Dutch, Greek, and Italian)
- 7.1 Valorisation strategy
- 7.2 Final European Conference
- 7.3 Job profile of ICT AT

4. Partnerships

ATLEC project has a varied partnership that represents the education, accessibility, disability and technology sector. The following gives an overview of the partners, together with a short description of their main activities.

No	Name of the partner organisation	Short profile	Contact person	Contact details	Website
1	Oak Field School And Sports College	Oak field School and Sports College is an all age school providing education to pupils in the City of Nottingham and surrounding authorities.	David Stewart	d.stewart@oakfield.nottingham.sch.uk	www.oakfieldsportscollege.org.uk
2	PhoenixKM BVBA	PhoenixKM has as core focus the integration of people with disabilities in the society, and more specifically into the labour market, and does so via dedicated consultancy services offered to beneficiary organisations	Karel Van Isacker	karel@phoenixkm.eu	www.phoenixkm.eu
3	Disability Now	Disability NOW (DN) is a Greek supportive organisation (NGO) with an established European profile, mostly managed by and for people with disabilities.	Anna Evangeliou	admin@disabilitynow.gr	www.disabled.gr
4	Associazione Italiana Assistenza Spastici (A.I.A.S.)	AIAS Bologna is a medium-size organisation for people with disabilities and their family members with more than 30 years of experience.	Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf	hoogerwerf@ausilioteca.org	www.aiasbo.it
5	Greenhat Interactive Ltd	Greenhat Interactive's mission is to facilitate independence and access to	Jacqueline Lewis	jacqui.lewis@virgin.net	www.gi-se.co.uk

No	Name of the partner organisation	Short profile	Contact person	Contact details	Website
		sustainable employment for people with disabilities.			
6	University Of Athens	The Department of Communication and Media Studies of the University of Athens was founded in 1989. It is in the vanguard in the field of communication theory and media practice in Greece.	Constantinos Mourlas	mourlas@media.uoa.gr	www.uoa.gr

5. Plans for the Future

Within the second year ATLEC will finalise the creation of the curriculum and the development of the training materials. Then they will be adapted to different levels of complexity to address the tailored needs of various disabilities and will then be translated in all partners' languages.

In the first half of 2013, also the mobile /tab based training application will be finished, tested and deployed on mobile Android devices.

In April 2013 the testing will start and will be equally carried out for a number of months in Belgium, UK, Greece and Italy. Each country will pilot with different types and severity of disability.

These piloting activities will take off through local events that will be organised in all partner countries. These will be announced on various media, including the project website.

The project will also organise a final conference in December 2013 in Brussels, Belgium. This event will earmark the launch of the ATLEC outcomes and disseminate them to relevant invited stakeholders and gatekeepers:

- People with disabilities, and their representative organisations;
- Training centres, and in particular local VET centres;
- Special and also inclusive education schools;
- Representative organisations of providers of ICT training;
- Employer organisations;
- Policy makers on regional, local, national level and European level;
- Related projects such as VIPI (www.vipi-project.eu) and SGSCC which are working on an ICT curriculum and social and digital competencies.

Finally, all outcomes of the ATLEC project follow a free for all principle, whereby:

- The course content (curriculum, handbook and training material) is provided in different languages under a Create Commons (cc) license, allowing to other parties to use and adjust the material, as long as they make no commercial usage of it, and keep reference to the selected cc licensing scheme;
- The mobile learning application will be provided as is for free in different languages. The mobile application will also be downloadable from the Android market place (Google Play).

6. Contribution to EU policies

ATLEC project contributes to:

- **European Disability Strategy 2010- 2020** – ATLEC contributes directly to the European Disability Strategy 2010- 2020 in terms of accessibility to training and education to people with disabilities and consequently improving employability of people with disabilities.
- **Special needs** – ATLEC is targeting people with disabilities by designing a curriculum on ICT Assistive Technology, fully accessible and tailored in accordance with their needs. Such kind of training in ICT AT tailored to individual special needs, pace and career opportunities and preferences will enable people with disabilities to find and/or sustain employment or/and get access to further training.
- **Education and Training 2020-** In full compliance with ET2020, this project will provide people with disabilities with digital literacy, skills how to learn and other ICT competence related skills, thus giving them the chance to get further qualified or find suitable employment.
- **Employment** - Employability of people with disabilities is at the core of ATLEC, whether it is to find a job in the regular labour market, or being able to keep a current job, using the support of ICT Assistive Technology. This is in line with the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 which also addresses employment, and eliminating the existing barriers, lack of basic ICT skills being one of them.

LLP- new ICT AT curriculum tailored according the individual needs of people with disabilities will increase lifelong learning opportunities for people with disabilities and will facilitate their social and labour integration thus also lowering the social burden of the society and increasing their self-esteem, psychological and economic status. A blended approach will be used: through F2F training, (either individual or in group), as well as via e-learning through a fully accessible WCAG2.0 compliant e-learning platform. The training materials will be available in EN, NL, EL, IT and in both electronic and paper version format. Alternative formats will be provided locally where needed and desired by end-users. The curriculum will combine existing popular IT trainings in conjunction with specific ICT AT training by video tutorials.

- **Leonardo da Vinci-** the ATLEC curriculum and training materials will be developed by tailoring the needs of people with disabilities and their pace of learning and make it fully accessible to them. This will enable people with disabilities to continue with further learning opportunities as well as finding employment. The content of the curriculum will be flexible to fit the individual needs of the trainees as well as that of employers (i.e. specific AT software needed to perform duties at work). The ATLEC training materials/learning objects will be made available via a fully accessible online multilingual learning platform, while WEB2.0 social media will be used to strengthen the learning impact, allowing learners and trainers to also exchange their experiences. ATLEC's outcomes will also be referred to through the VIPI platform (KA3-ICT).

