PROJECT UPSKILLEAD

1st Upskillead project Newsletter

Background

It is widely acknowledged that educators across all sectors but more importantly adult educators and trainers face many challenges as they deal with increasingly complex and diverse learning situations and meet competence demands in a constantly changing work environment with the evolvement of new technologies, a constantly changing labor market with highly technical demands for skills and a challenging socio-economic context.

As a result, there is an urgent need for Adult Educators is to enhance uptake of ICT in teaching and learning, to promote stronger coherence between the needs of the labor market thus achieving a better skills match for their adults and bridging the gap between the education and the world of work. Providing attractive, effective and efficient high-tech possibilities for training helps Adult educators/ trainers to address skills deficits and update their competences throughout their career based on the current needs of the labor market and the economy are the main tasks of the project.

The EU 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth acknowledges LLL and skills development as key elements in response to the current economic crisis, to demographic ageing and to the broader economic and social strategy. The economic crisis has highlighted the major role which Adult Learning (AL) can play in achieving the EU 2020 Targets, by enabling adults to improve their ability to adapt to changes in the labor market, family and society.

Objective

The UpSkillead European project aims to provide adult educators/trainers a comprehensive professional development programme for upgrading and up-skilling their digital skills which will be offered as an in-house training and pilot-tested as on-line tool. During the implementation of the ICT training Adult Educators' progress will be carefully monitored, whereas at the end validation through the use of the OPEN BADGES system will be offered.

Project partnership

- RIC Novo mesto (Slovenia)
- Euni Partners (Bulgaria)
- Emphasys Centre (Ciprus)
- Pixel (Italy)
- INBIE - Research and Innovation in Education Institute (Polonia)
- DRPDNM - Drustvo za Razvijanje Prostovoljnega Dela Novo Mesto (Slovenia)

Aims

- support synergies between education, research and innovation activities, the digitization of quality learning content and promote the use of ICT as a driver for systemic change to increase the quality and relevance of training at all levels;

- introduce new mechanisms for the recognition and validation of the digital competences acquired in order to achieve visibility, transferability ad transparency;

- inclusive training, addressing diversity, developing social and civic competences, media literacy, combating discrimination, reducing disparities affecting disadvantaged learners in order to enable access;

- using open and innovative training in the digital era, use of ICT to outreach disadvantaged groups;

- extending and developing educators' competences, particularly in the effective use of I T in adult learning, for better outreach and improved learning outcomes.

Meetings

The kickoff meeting was held on 24-25 November 2016 at Pixel site in Florence. During the first meeting, the European project partners introduced themselves as well as their project's related experiences and expertise. The main activities to be carried out were presented and discussed. The main intellectual outputs to be produced were examined and the templates for the production of the expected deliverables were analyzed and jointly discussed.

The second meeting was held on 30-31 May 2017 in Czestochowa (Poland). During the second meeting, the European project partners presented the translational report resulting from the interviews carried out at national level with adult learners' educators in order to identify the skills and the competences to be developed. In addition, the European project partners defined the six competences to be included in the European framework addressed to adult learners' educators to be produced in the forthcoming months.

Latest News

The first outputs produced in the framework of the Uskillead project are the following:

1) Benchmark Survey into the adult learning sector, useful for the development of the project's aims in compliance with the 2015 EC Report Adult policies and the urge for MS to explore further the results. It can also be used as a reference document by the policy makers in partner countries for promoting the Adult Learning Agenda and the Digital Agenda in their country.

The objectives of the Survey are:

- to investigate through policy and document analysis, as well as through quantitative and qualitative survey (on-line and on-paper questionnaires and focus group interviews) the provision of adult learning in each partner country by the public, private or organisational sector;

- to investigate using the above methodology the Adult Educators' background and qualification in each partner country and their needs in relation to their professional development and career prospects with special focus on the digital area

- to explore the compliance of the national policies with the EU recommendations (main aspects)

- to investigate the provision and validation of opportunities in the public / sector for the provision of ICT training courses etc. to be included in the e-platform

- to set up an Advisory Group with experts in the field of ICT to support the partners' work and offer academic guidance.

2) Up-skilling Digital Competence Index, whose aim is to define the essential digital competences that AdEd must have, based on a framework designed with benchmarks and indicators against which their current e-skills will be evaluated (Screening Test on-line). The Digital Framework/Index is an attempt to introduce quality standards to Adult Education both in relation to the professsionalisation of AE, but also in relation to the introduction of evidence-based data for quality assurance, since this will later be linked to the e-skills evaluation (on-line screening tests) and professional development programme (production of ICT Guides and resources for on-line and in-house training).

3) Digital Up-skilling Curriculum and Training Material for Adult Educators: based on the development of the Digital Competence Framework with benchmarks and indicators to meet the e-skills essential for Adult Educators to upgrade their support for adult learners in the digital era, the main aim the this product is to develop the Digital Up-skilling Curriculum and Content for the 100 hours of training, the ICT Guides and accompanying training materials to be used based on the requirements posed by the Digital Competence Framework. The training material is expected to stimulate and empower NGOs, Adult Organisations, public authorities, stakeholders, local authorities etc. to offer continuous professional development to Adult Educators and possibly other Volunteers in the digital area.

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Further Information

Stay in touch with us: visit our website at: http://upskillead.eu/