

Thessaloniki, 26 November 2001

4th TTnet Annual Conference

Training of teachers and trainers: a priority of the Commission's eLearning action plan TTnet's contribution

Thessaloniki, 13 and 14 December 2001

Working document

1. Context

Cedefop set up the Training of Trainers network (TTnet) in 1998 as a Community forum on key issues in the professionalisation of teachers and trainers to bring together key players and decision-makers in vocational training from the various Member States.

Since 1999, the impact of new technologies on competences and qualifications of teachers and trainers has been a priority area of activity for the network, as teachers and trainers are increasingly recognised as indispensable to the development of new forms of knowledge-sharing.

The action plan of the eLearning initiative approved on 28 March 2001 confirms the role that teachers and trainers are called to play in the establishment of a true numerical culture and the necessity of rethinking their competences. The Commission's eLearning initiative advocates the following measures, for the training of teachers and trainers, in its action plan (point 3.2.2):

- an inventory of projects and an analysis of models developed for initial and continuing training of teachers and trainers;
- a guide to existing resources;
- an analysis of the skills and qualifications of tomorrow's teachers and trainers.

2. Contribution of the TTnet network

In support of the 'teachers and trainers' strand of the Commission's eLearning action plan TTnet has introduced a measure structured around three groups:

- project-group 1: dissemination of innovative practices in the area of training of teachers and trainers;
- project-group 2: fostering competences and qualifications of teachers and trainers;
- project-group 3: guide to on-line resources.

The measure was launched at a working meeting in Thessaloniki on 20 July 2001.

The Annual Conference will be devoted mainly to analysing the findings of the three project-groups over the period July-December 2001, and to a discussion of those findings by the entire network with a view to defining the framework for future cooperation.

3. Objectives of the three project-groups

Project-group 1: Dissemination of innovative practices in the area of professionalisation of teachers and trainers

Responsible experts: Mario Dutto, General Director, Regione Lombardia
Arnaud Coulon, Consultant Algora

Objectives of project-group 1

In a context where practice precedes theory, where problems and solutions emerge in and through action, the implementation of a plan based on observation of practice, to conduct analyses and synthesis, leads to two types of result:

- identifying examples of practices which have been validated in and through action for dissemination to the professional community;
- collecting material on the development of competences of teachers and trainers in tandem with new forms of working.

Results

Detailed monographs on six innovative practices:

- Autofod (France),
 - Siemens LearningValley (Belgium),
 - FAS Open and Distance Training (Ireland),
 - Computer Mediated Tutoring (United Kingdom),
 - Profiss (Portugal),
 - IT Mirror (Denmark).
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Project-group 2: Fostering competences and qualifications of teachers and trainers

Responsible expert: Bernard Blandin, Consultant CESI

Objectives of project-group 2

Using the results gained from the networks' activities and the dossiers on innovative practices:

- to identify, among developments in competences, those which could be considered to form stable and durable elements of new professional profiles;

- to identify, outside of the particularities of the context of implementation those competences which would be most suitable to the construction of a common ‘base’ of competences, defined at Community level;
- to create conditions favourable to the achievement and maintenance of new competences so as to initiate the process of transfer and acquisition.

Results

- Specific information on the occupational profiles of eLearning teachers and trainers involved in the six practices studied as part of this measure.
 - Guidance document for the network and decision-makers on the issue of developing the competences of eLearning teachers and trainers in the Community context and in the framework of the eLearning Action Plan.
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Project-group 3: Guide to on-line resources

Responsible expert: Jane Massy, Consultant ObservETory

Objectives of project-group 3

Evolution towards a training culture based on knowledge sharing and networking of competences, presupposes that all players in the area of training have easy and organised access to educational resources.

- to develop a prototype guide to on-line resources and services, for the network and the professionals including the regular updating of the information provided.
- to implement, on an experimental basis, this guide on the TTnet site on Cedefop’s electronic training village. (ETV).

Results

An integral resource guide, providing structure and interlinkage between case studies, skill/competences profiles and relevant specific electronic resources available on the web.