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www.stepup2ict.eu



Learning activities as Open Educational Resources

According to OER Commons, Open Educational Resources (OER) “are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse at no cost, and without needing to ask permission. Unlike copyrighted resources, OER have been authored or created by an individual or organization that chooses to retain few, if any, ownership rights.” (<https://www.oercommons.org>).

The OER is a movement rooted in the general right to access to education. Under this philosophy, any educator can freely use available pedagogical materials, and also recreate, reformulate or blend it with other materials and pedagogical resources. By actively participating in this co-creation process, each educator can add something new, and also adapt materials to specific contexts and groups, thus contributing to a richer and more meaningful education and training for all.

In the adult education domain, OER can also offer the opportunity for change in teaching and learning processes if we are able to encourage educators to explore and use digital technologies for engaging with learning.

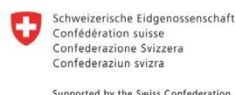
That is what we are applying in the context of the StepUp project, an Erasmus + project concerning the professional development of people working in adult education. Since new skills are required for planning and using new learning environments with the potential of digital technologies, in the StepUp project the idea is precisely to create and propose some learning activities that make use of the information and communication technologies for the different areas of action of the adult educator.

More information on the process of developing the concept of "open learning activities" can be consulted soon on the project website.

Partner



University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland



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The Handbook for adult educators

In the meantime the Stepup2ICT partners have been working on "Getting to use online learning, web 2.0 technologies and mobile apps in Adult education" handbook for the development of innovative training material for adult educators. An Adult Educators Profile definition has also been created, after the partners have carried out both a desktop research and a survey that allowed making the state of the art of the sector and analysis in each country. Thus the partners were able to draw some conclusions. The most important conclusion is that in all countries adult educators admit that they need more training on the competences in ICT use.

The partners are now working on the handbook structure and all the planned chapters. The handbook will be shortly finalized and translated into all partners languages.

Online Platforms

The Stepup2ICT project uses different digital platforms for training, dissemination and knowledge sharing.

A Moodle platform has been set up for the online training programme to promote educators' and trainers' ICT capability and proficiency in using e-resources in adult education. It will be used by all partners to manage training material and deliver the Stepup2ICT training course.

Different platforms have been set up for dissemination: the main channel is the project website (<http://www.stepup2ict.eu>), which mainly presents the project objectives, partners and results. In addition, social media channels have been established: for instance Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Stepup2ICT/>), LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12106318>).

Stepup2ICT is also disseminated on EPALE: the partners write articles about the project to recruit potential adults interested in participating in the training activities and adult education organisations looking into applying the Stepup2ICT material and methodology within its educational offers and activities.

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Second Meeting in Brussels

A second project meeting was held in Brussels on March 22 and 23, 2018. The program of the meeting was not only operational – Where are we in the project? What needs more attention? What are the next steps we need to take? – but also in depth, leading the partners into fundamental discussions on working with the diversity of adult learners and the role(s) and profile(s) of adult educators, in general but especially as far as ICT is concerned. And from that discussion we went back to the project: how will we design an appealing, efficient and effective digital handbook (complemented by additional online materials) on using ICT throughout the whole conceive-trough-deliver cycle for adult educators and how can we design an equally appealing, efficient and effecting training programme? Looking for a common core of all adult education while valorising the diversity of adult education is obviously a challenge, but partners feel confident this goal will be achieved.



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The Community Platform

The community platform creation is in progress. This is an online environment which will allow stakeholders and adult educators to share learning knowledge, materials, experience and tools. This platform will be a reference point for the adult educators interested in implementing ICT tools in their daily activities, and in exchanging practices in using digital media and learning technologies in adult learning. The community will be available soon.

For more information about the project and the activities carried out, visit web site and FB page at following links:

<http://www.stepup2ict.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Stepup2ICT/>

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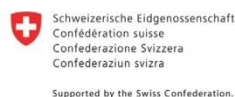


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