



Q-PLM - QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR VET PROVIDERS USING **PRODUCT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT**

NEWSLETTER 1

European Programme	Lifelong Learning Programme Leonardo da Vinci Multilateral Projects for Development of Innovation
Project Number	538379-LLP-1-2013-1-AT-LEONARDO-LMP
Duration	1 st of October 2013 – 30 th of September 2015

Services and products on the vocational education and training (VET) market are being influenced by a vast number of factors and variables. VET products have a certain product lifecycle, as do all products on the economic market - **Product lifecycle management (PLM)** is a conceptual approach which takes into consideration the entire lifetime of a product.

The main aim of the Q-PLM project is to, in an adapted form, transfer the product lifecycle management that is primarily being used in the industrial and IT area to the field of further education. Active PLM facilitates product control, planning, adaptation and innovation, thus enabling a market-orientated approach of the portfolios in further education. This project foresees the development of an IT-based tool for an integrated product lifecycle management for VET providers.

PLM IN VET – AS AN OPPORTUNITY

Active Product Lifecycle Management, including the use of suitable PLM software, is or can be a tool for monitoring and controlling the product portfolio of an educational institution. It can be recommended not only for reasons of quality assurance, but also for the facilitation of the product development, for more transparency in the strategic business areas and last but not least for the maintenance of the competitiveness of VET providers.

There is a high demand for a coherent and practical instrument for the monitoring of the lifecycles of VET products, with consideration of several key success factors and indicators influencing vocational training and education programmes.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

The development, innovation and introduction of new training programs and the adaptation of existing services are the key success factors for vocational educational training institutions. The main challenges to our product development are competition and the resulting pressure to innovate. Product development is an active process which is always associated with extensive research work. Market observations and surveys, competitor analysis and internal and external feedbacks, feedbacks from training staff, sales staff and from corporate networks form the basis for new product ideas.

PLM-SOFTWARE

PLM-software systems enable companies to facilitate the control of product life cycles and to manage the wide range of product data in an efficient way. Optimally coordinated processes across multiple locations allow a quick response to changes in market demand. Thus, the right product, at the right time, is brought to market at the right price. PLM-software should be used for the coordination of training programmes in the VET market and for the control of the processes and product portfolios of the training providers, thus making it easier to monitor and better visualize the business processes and the product.

THE Q-PLM PROJECT DEVELOPS THE FOLLOWING PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Analysis of existing PLM (Product Lifecycle Management) software
- Research of variables influencing the product lifecycle of a VET course
- Identification of indicators for variables for product lifecycles in VET
- Handbook for Active Product Lifecycle Management for VET providers
- Software product for Active Product Lifecycle Management for VET providers
- Testing phase for the software
- Final conference event in Austria in June 2015

The partnership consists of the following 8 European partners



AUSTRIA
Berufsförderungsinstitut Steiermark
www.bfi-stmk.at



FINLAND
WinNova
www.winnova.fi



GERMANY
INIT Developments Ltd
www.init-developments.eu



IRELAND
Cork Education and Training Board
www.corketb.ie



BELGIUM
Syntra West vzw
www.syntrawest.be



SLOVENIA
Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije
www.gzs.si



SPAIN
Fondo Formación Euskadi
www.ffeuskadi.net



ROMANIA
Universitatea Ștefan cel Mare din
Suceava
www.usv.ro

2nd TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING

IN BRUGES / BELGIUM FROM 9TH TO 11TH OF APRIL 2014

The 2nd international partnership meeting took place in Bruges / Belgium in April 2014. During this meeting the indicators and key success factors for the Q-PLM software were presented and there was an opportunity it was possible to discuss and fix the software specifications so that a start could be made on the development of software and a handbook. Partners discussed the results of the field analysis of PLM in the partner countries. An early identification of relevant target groups and stakeholders was also foreseen for discussion, as well as the presentation of the Q-PLM webpage, Facebook page and dissemination materials.



For further information
please take a look at the
project website
www.q-plm.eu
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