ECHOES
Extended Classrooms for Higher Opportunities Enhancing Skills

ECHOES – Extended Classroom for Higher Opportunities Enhancing Skills - is a European project funded by the Erasmus+ Program under the Action Type KA220-VET - Cooperation partnerships in Vocational Tducation and training.

The project focus on two of the most significant recent development in VET: distance learning (methodologies, tools, and resources) and online digital learning. COVID-19 has highlighted both the potential for digital technologies to play a greater role in VET and the shortcomings in VET's ability to embrace them (Innovation and digitalisation in Vocational Education and Training, EC, 2021). The frontier of digital learning now involves 5G, artificial intelligence and learning analytics. As a result of these developments of the last decade or so, an 'average' VET school or work-based learning environment is likely to contain a mix of digital technologies that are being used by teachers and trainers in a wide variety of ways. Nevertheless, many barriers impede to distance and online learning in VET systems to deploy all its potential.

ECHOES project intends to address some of the main obstacles and needs faced by teachers, trainers and mentors engaged in distance learning and digital learning processes. Joining together, the Partners aim at getting professionals in the field of VET ready to manage online learning and extended classrooms.

The specific Objectives of the project are:

- to provide a comprehensive understanding on context, technologies, skills gaps, trainingneeds in the field of online teaching, specifically addressing VET trainers, tutors,counsellors, curriculum planners and evaluators
- to improve digital skills and abilities of VET teachers, trainers and mentors engaged in distance learning processes by offering them freely accessible learning pathways to make efficient use of the platforms, tools and educational resources for creation of digital teaching contents or components
- to contribute to creation of learning pathways at local, regional and national levels (and, possibly, the related recognition systems) for VET teachers, trainers and mentors engaged in distance learning processes, inspired to the relevant European Frameworks

These objectives will be achieved through implementation of the following expected project results and related activities:

Result 1 **RESEARCH ON THE STATE OF ART**

Research on the state of art on distance and virtual learning for VET and WBL projects: review and analysis of the best practices (environments, programs, methodologies and tools) and skills gaps of the trainers and the staff concerned. The Research includes classification and selection of the training programs, didactical and the available technology resources.

Result 2 **ECHOES TOOLKIT**

ECHOES Toolkit, as a comprehensive catalogue of resources and materials tailored for VET projects in the three main fields of: training / training on the job; mentorship and accompaniment to job inclusion; business creation.

Result 3 **ECHOES PILOT TRAINING COURSE**

ECHOES Pilot Training Course for the empowerment of digital skills of teachers, trainers and mentors supporting online learning processes in VET and WBL systems: design and implementation of a Pilot Course in the countries of the partnership.
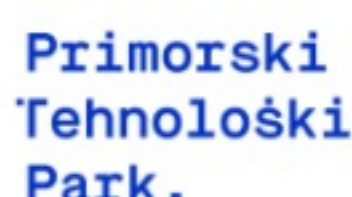
Result 4 **ECHOES OER**

Design and Implementation of an Open Educational Resource-OER based on the contents of the Toolkit and the Pilot Training Course.

EXPLORE THE PROJECT SITE

The partnership

The project partnership consists of Ass.for.SEO (leader, Italy), T2i - Technology transfer and innovation (Italy), Primorska Technology Park (Slovenia), Infodef - Instituto para el Fomento del Desarrollo y la Formacion (Spain), HTBLA Wolfsberg (Austria), Wematica Srl (Italy).
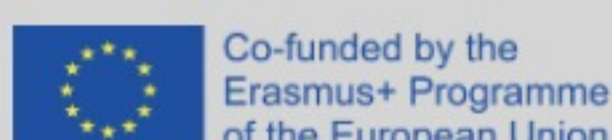

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