

## Harnessing e-learning language outcomes

**Tom Savu, Susan Russam, Ian Clifford**

E-mail: [tomsavu@gmail.com](mailto:tomsavu@gmail.com), [susan.russam@gemsni.org.uk](mailto:susan.russam@gemsni.org.uk), [cliffordi@bmunjib.ie](mailto:cliffordi@bmunjib.ie)

### Abstract

Free movement of labour within the European Union has resulted in needing to respond in the VET (vocational education and training) context to the employability needs of migrant workers and other minority ethnic groups who experience labour market disadvantage particularly but not exclusively in relation to the language barrier.

The LLFW – Learning Language for Work project aimed to address the barriers to employment/employability experienced by the above groups who require support to learn the language skills they require for employment.

GEMS Northern Ireland, the lead partner in the project, used their "Language for Work" programme as the dynamic platform for transfer of innovation, to develop the "Learning Language for Work" programme, which will improve the employability of migrant workers in the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Hungary and Romania.

The partnership shared the knowledge and innovation of GEMS language for work programme: Rationale, Programme design methodology, VET practice, IAG, employers and learners.

The knowledge and resources required to adapt the LLFW programme to meet the needs/employment/employability context in each participating country was identified and the LLFW learning programme, materials and resources were developed for each partner country.

A LLFW pilot programme was undertaken in each participating country and the initial LLFW programme was reviewed and refined on basis of knowledge emerging from pilots.

Project outcomes were disseminated in each partner country and also during different international conferences.

The paper initially provides a brief introduction to the "Language for Work" lessons and "Train the Trainer" framework and then describes the adjustments performed by the LLFW partners to make the programme fit for purpose for their respective countries.

Statistics on evaluation undertaken after the pilot phase in each partner country are presented, together with the conclusions for the future improvements. There are also presented some aspects regarding the Web Intranet developed during the project on a Moodle e-Learning platform and used as a document management tool, partners' communication tool and Web laboratory / virtual learning environment for testing different distance learning activity types.

Following the successful LLFW project, the LAWN (LAnuage for Work training Network) project partnership will develop and implement a number of innovative web-based, direct delivery and e-learning tools and professional practice protocols which support VET professionals in their delivery of the Vocationally Orientated Language Learning (VOLL) Learning Language for Work Programme.

The partnership will work together to develop a professional network on a European platform which will be the first step in establishing a European Association which promotes knowledge sharing, information and best practice for VET professionals delivering Learning Language for Work and other VOLL programmes.

The key objectives of the LAWN partnership are in summary:

- Designing the initial 'Training the Trainers' curriculum



- Designing the technological infrastructure which supports the curriculum
- Deciding about the professional profiles to be involved
- Establishing a network's dissemination and valorisation strategy