FUNES project reached its end

After three years of successful work on defining models for new skills development in the European furniture industry, the FUNES project reached its end. The project has been co-financed by the EU funds within the programme ERASMUS+/KA2–Cooperation and Innovation for Good Practices

Motivation for the project came from the fact that the traditional professions are forced to adapt to the requirements of continuously changing markets - they have to respond to technological developments, including modern communication techniques, use of social networks, intelligent manufacturing and highly automatized design and production processes. Accordingly, development of new special skills is a key to keep track of the new trends and to protect European furniture industry's competitiveness. As an answer to this challenge, FUNES project developed models for new skills required in a modern furniture industry and elaborated the training material to facilitate the acquisition of these new skills.

In order to reach its final goal, the consortium carried on the extensive work, including mapping the furniture sector in each participating county, definition of different scenarios in relation to the new/emerging skills and competencies, surveying the furniture industry stakeholders and training providers. The main outcome was development of an online course material that could help the furniture workers to gain these skills.

After the preliminary survey, the project partners developed eight training modules, which were translated into four languages (Italian, Portuguese, Polish and Spanish):

1. Research and Development Management
2. Material of the Future
3. Design Management
4. Production Management for Competitive Advantage
5. Environmental Management System in the Furniture Sector
6. Marketing of European Furniture
7. New Trends and Markets
8. Manufacturing Intelligence and Community Management

The modules were stored in the Moodle platform and evaluated by a number of potential users as a part of the pilot course testing. The evaluation audience included workers in the furniture industry, furniture company's owners, students from VET centres, educators, online learning experts and academia members.

The results of the pilot test were presented at the last project meeting held in Paterna, Valencia on 11 -12th of July 2017. The meeting was followed by the half-day multiplier event aiming the furniture companies and other sector related stakeholders. The event was also an opportunity to discuss the last actions to be taken for a successful project closing. The general feedback from the pilot course testing was positive, the evaluators also gave some useful suggestions for improvements and possible further development of the course material.

The members of consortium believe that the FUNES online modules with some improvements and adjustments could be used as a valuable online education tool for VET centres or as part of companies' training. Some of the module could be more developed into standalone courses in the future.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

AIDIMME,(Furniture, Wood and Packaging Technology Institute – Spain

FEVAMA –Business Federation of Wood and Furniture of the Valencian Community – Spain

COSMOB – Specialized Centre for the Wood–Furniture Industry – Italy

Vocational Training Centre ENAIP Lombardia – Italy

ITD – Instytut Technologii Drewna – Poland

CFPIMM – Professional Training Centre of Wood and Furniture Industries – Portugal

InnovaWood – Belgium

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For more information on FUNES project visit www.funesproject.eu .