



Leonardo da Vinci



Project LEONARDO DA VINCI « OPTIC »: Optimisation of Techniques of Information and Communication.

Project N° F/01/B/P/PP-118089

Introduction

The project has been approved with support from European Funding with the aim of promoting a change in educational methods to integrate the use of Information Technology and Communication into training. This could improve the access into training by small enterprises working in the management and exploitation and woodlands and timber products.

Each partner has worked in the area most appropriate to the needs of local businesses and their areas of expertise. The partners of this project have developed materials and Internet based tutoring and have piloted a training programme in the wood and forest sector.

The European partners have shared good practice and the experience gained in the use of distance learning to meet the needs of rural areas.

- France: CFPF (Centre for Professional Training in Forestry) - Project Co-ordinator
- United Kingdom: Otley College (Training in Further and Higher Education for the Land based sector)
- Spain: EASA (Co-operative of Services in Agriculture and Forestry in Asturias)
- Latvia: The School of Agriculture and Forestry- Ergli

The Objectives

OPTIC through the information gathered and experience of activities had the following objectives:

- To remove the obstacles, which prevent the development of lifelong learning for very small enterprises of the wood and timber sector to create, test out and disseminate the results of modules of distance learning and tutoring.
- To create, test out and disseminate the training modules of distance learning through the enterprises.
- To prepare the tutors to be able to make use of ICT (and the methods) and educational systems under development, for example open and distance learning and e-learning which are being developed and piloted with the enterprises, as well as the technical tools for the training.
- To provide workers with the opportunity to test out new training materials developed to respond to their needs and applied in a working environment with the support and evaluation via on-line tutoring.
- To create a training module for trainers to make the best use of ICT in education.
- To make changes, following the pilot, to the concept of training workers in enterprises and those on continual vocational training programmes particularly through the participation of organisations involved in decision-making.
- Dissemination of the results obtained during and following activities for the:
 - a) Enterprises of wood-timber sectors and agriculture that are affected by the problems
 - b) European centres of training
 - c) Organisations concerned with employment and training and regional groups



The results:

An educational kit containing 4 CDs, each one made up of a multi-media course in 4 languages (English, Spanish, French and Latvian) suitable for on line delivery, with tests for auto. Each course was developed using different software in order to introduce a broader range of technical methodology.

Another CD, also in the four languages, presenting all the technical and educational data that is essential to set up open and distance learning. All the tools presented in this kit have been made with a prior phase of diagnosis and experimentation with the target beneficiaries to validate their relevance.

CD 1 & CD 2: Woodland Management - Woodland management and biodiversity.

CD 3: Health and Safety - Health and occupational safety in forestry harvesting work

CD 4: Timber Quality - Timber production - Round timber and it's preparing for sawing.

CD 5: The sustainable development - Integration of the concept in the business management of the wood sector enterprises



A sixth CD presents all the support material necessary to deliver an open and distance learning course.

1 – Related to the trainer:

- Document N°1: List of the necessary material for the installation of open and distance learning in a training centre.
- Document N°2: Job benchmark description of the forest trainer with open and distance learning.
- Document N°3: Training benchmark description of training of the forest trainer with the open and distance learning.
- Document N°4: Small methodological guide for the design of courses in open and distance learning.
- Document N°5: List of the modules of training for the trainers using of the ICT.
- Document N°6: SCQ for the profiling of the trainers before training with the use of ICT.

2 - Related to the trainee:

- Document N°7: List of the necessary material for the installation of open and distance learning in a very small company.
- Document N°8: Profile of competences of the trainee using ICT.
- Document N°9: List of the modules of training of learners in the use of ICT.
- Document N°10: SCQ for the positioning of trainees before training with use of ICT.

With reference to these specifications, this educational kit is suitable for a very diverse audience even though its main target group are the training organisations. Therefore, the recipients of these tools would be:

- The managers of small or medium training organization.
- The trainers.
- The people from organisations in charge of obtaining funds for training.
- The public authorities in charge of initial training and the unemployed people.
- The services of the local authorities in charge of the initial and continuous vocational training.
- The employers and trade associations and the companies.