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IMPROVED SAFETY FOR ELECTRICIANS

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The "Improved Safety for Electricians" (Safety4El) project is based on major European Health and Safety issues:

The numbers of work related accidents in EU differ a lot, e.g. according to the standardised incidence rates (per 100,000 workers) of fatal injury at work, excluding road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work for 2012 (Eurostat, ESAW, 2012) Denmark is about the average in the EU, but still double the numbers from GB. Similar numbers are found in Spain, Cyprus, and Malta.

One of the differences is that in the project partner countries only GB has mandatory tests that need to be taken on a regular basis; e.g. employees in GB who get in contact with electricity (Building and Construction and industry) must pass a test on safety.

In Denmark, the National Research Centre for the Working Environment sent a questionnaire to 50,000 employed workers and received 27,000 responses (March 2014) that showed electricians compared to other work groups are involved in more than average numbers of accidents and suffer from more than average physical strain; e.g. working on knees or squatting 61.19% compared to an average for all groups of 17.2%, lifting or carrying more than a quarter of the work time 56.57% compared to an average for all groups of 30.68%, and working with arms lifted 51.43% compared to an average for all groups of 18.33%



Mobility:

The different regulations for electricians' safety training/tests present barriers to mobility, this project will seek to remove such barriers by developing eLearning materials (versions for online and face to face courses) to support the teaching of safety in relation to working with live electrical installations, repairs etc. as well as initial test and post tests as part of the teaching about work environment and safety for electricians.

Course modules:

The content of the course modules will be prepared so it may be used as part of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), the CLIL scaffolding will mainly be based on online units with all words linked to dictionaries in 118 languages, this will help prepare craftsmen and apprentices for mobility.

Target groups:

The project has two main target groups from the same sector; electricians and electricians' apprentices, but the bulk of the proposed outcomes will also be suitable for all employees and apprentices in the construction industry.

Partners:

The project consortium comprises vocational colleges (Syddansk Erhvervs-skole, Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierrri S. Coop, Bridgwater and Taunton College, Malta College of Arts Science and Technology, and Intercollege) presenting Denmark, Cyprus, Great Britain, Malta, and Spain (from the Basque part of Spain) and a European NGO (European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training) with a direct access to Europe-wide networks and policy makers.

The Plan:

The project work will start with mapping differences in regulations governing the safety training and/or tests for electricians as well as differences between electrical installations in the countries. The college teams will develop a web-based OER (Open Educational Resource) containing multimedia rich interactive materials and cases for training Risk Assessment and a large volume of multiple choice questions on safety for electricians and other workers in the construction industry. All training materials will be available in Danish, English, Greek, Maltese, and Spanish.

Curricula:

To exploit the project outcomes, the partnership will prepare curricula showing how to use the resources on an individual basis (long distance learning) and classroom teaching.

Recommendations:

During the project the developed materials will be tested to verify its effectiveness compared to the existing ECS-test system from GB. Based on the findings the project will compile a recommendation for safety training and tests of electricians.

Accreditation:

The project partnership will in association with employer organisations and unions investigate and work for future possible accreditation of the outcomes/tests across the participating partner countries. Such an accreditation will both remove mobility barriers and prevent wear and work accidents.