Advancing Vocational Competences in Foreign Languages for Paramedics -2013-1-PL1-LEO05-37769

Welcome!

The MEDILINGUA project (2013-1-PL1-LEO05-37769) is continuing successfully. The partners started their work on the creation of the training content and the platform, which will be the main result of the project. An initial testing of the first training unit was conducted by paramedics from the partner countries and its results were really positive. Also a Podcasts Creation Guide was prepared and translated into national languages. It contains information about the concept of podcasting, the equipment and software needed for recording podcasts and practical tips and tricks. The first round of dissemination workshops was held in each partner country (with the exception of the United Kingdom because of the different partner status of EEC) and during it the project, its activities and the first training unit were presented to local paramedics.

Development of the platform and the training content

At the Berlin meeting it was agreed that the partnership will use the Moodle platform in order to deliver the language training for paramedics in the most effective way. Based on the research results it was decided that the topic of the first training unit will be: „Head injuries in children". The training materials and exercises for it were elaborated by Iberika Group, who have a rich experience in developing language courses and curricula. However, they were supported by Danmar regarding the technical production of the course and the medical partners (the University of Rzeszow and Gesaude) with regard to the specific medical vocabulary. The first pilot unit contains 15 exercises, which include listening comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, etc. It is based on a real-life situation describing an accident, in which a child has fallen out of the window and the paramedics are trying to save him. As this is a draft version of the platform the listening exercises contain only text scripts, which should be read by the learners before answering the questions. Later there will be audio and video podcasts in place of the scripts and this will make the course more useful and interactive for the learners. The initial testing, which was performed during the first dissemination workshops in the partner countries, showed that paramedics approved the structure and design of the first unit. Some of them pointed out some small technical mistakes that will be eliminated during the development of

the next units.

Podcasts Creation Guide

The Podcasts Creation Guide was developed under WP3- Transfer of Podcasting Methodology. It describes basic principles of creating the podcasts, accompanied with detailed methodological approach and success stories of using the podcasting in education. It also provides general knowledge on the podcasting methodology, and therefore is suitable for a wider audience - other professions and sectors. It will be a very useful tool for those, who decide to record podcasts and use them in the learning process. There they can find information about how to plan their podcasts and what kind of equipment (special microphones, cameras, recorders, filters, etc) they need in order to be able to record the materials. The Guide also indicates some of the audio and video programs used for podcasting: Audacity, Acoustica Basic Edition, REAPER, Windows Movie Maker, Ezvid, EDIUS. Last but not least, reading this document you can draw on the experience of some of the most prestigious western universities, which are already actively using the podcasting methodology in the learning process. The Guide was translated to all languages of the partnership and will be printed according to the project budget.

Dissemination workshops

The first round of national dissemination workshops was organized in each partner country (with the exception of the United Kingdom because of the different partner role of EEC). It is one of the most important aspects of the dissemination of MEDILINGUA results, because it directly engages the target group in the project activities. The participants in the workshops in the different countries were introduced to the Lifelong Learning Programme, the project, its activities and results. The paramedics discussed with the members of the partner organizations the research results and the ways, in which they can get involved in the project. The participants received project dissemination materials (newsletters, posters, leaflets). Also the first unit of the draft version of the platform was presented to the target group and they had the chance to test its functionality. The paramedics were very satisfied with the didactical structure, the range of vocabulary and the grammar issues in the exercises. Some of them suggested few small changes that need to be added to the platform: the possibility to download a certificate after finishing the exercises; the creation of an announcement that tells the user the end of the task, etc.

What's next?

Due to the busy programme of all partners in January 2015, it was agreed that the next partner meeting will be postponed for the 10-th and 11-th of February 2015. It will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria. At the moment partners are working on the development of training content for the next units of the platform. In Sofia the members of partner organizations will discuss the recording of podcasts, which will be uploaded to the platform in order to make its use more beneficial for the target group. Apart from this, Gesaude will present the draft version of the Testing plan that will contain the testing methodology and tools. The testing phase of the project will start in May 2015 and will aim at identifying and correcting errors in the platform, thus ensuring the high quality of its final version. A mid-term dissemination report will be prepared by the leader of WP6, Center Runi, by the 15-th of December 2014.

If you want to find more about the project and its activities, please, follow the project website and social media channels above!