Welcome!

After the successful end of the third partner meeting under MEDILINGUA project (2013-1-PL1-LEO05-37769) the partnership is continuing its hard work on the creation of the LMS platform and the training units. Two of the units are already available and were tested by paramedics in some of the partner countries during the Second Dissemination Workshop that was held in the countries of the partnership. The next important stage of the project is the testing phase that will start in May 2015 and aim at identifying technical or structural malfunctions in the platform which need to be eliminated in order to make it more useful for paramedics. The Portuguese partner is at the moment working on the creation of the Testing plan that will be ready by the end of May 2015.
Third partner meeting

The third transnational meeting under the project was held on the 10-th and 11-th of February 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria. Members of all the partner organizations participated in the meeting. Partners spent much of the meeting’s time discussing the efficiency of the first training unit which had already been tested by paramedics in the different countries and the development of the next units of the platform. The recording of learning video materials that will be added to the exercises in the delivery system was also discussed. Partners agreed that they will try to cooperate with Ian Teague, who is Assistant Director of Education for South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) in the United Kingdom for the shooting of those videos. During the meeting all partners worked together on the developed scenarios because some of them needed to be corrected. The representatives of the medical partners (Gesaude and the University of Rzeszow) gave suggestions about the changes in the scenarios in order to make them more realistic and relevant to the context of paramedics’ everyday work. The British partner, EEC, was observing if grammar and vocabulary exercises could be adjusted in order to produce an efficient language course. Also partners stressed on multicultural issues in the scenarios to make them useful for paramedics from each partner country.

The draft version of the Testing plan was presented by Gesaude who is the leader of WP5. The dissemination of project results was also discussed as partners talked a little about the first round of dissemination workshops.
Dissemination workshops

The Second National Dissemination Workshop was organized in Bulgaria, Poland and Germany. Dissemination workshops are the most important aspect of the distribution of MEDILINGUA results, because they provide a chance for paramedics to get directly involved in the project. Qualified and experienced paramedics and other medical staff took part in the workshops in the different countries. The project, its activities and results were introduced to the paramedics and they received dissemination materials (posters, leaflets, pens, notepads, etc). Also the paramedics from different countries tested the functionality of the first two training units and provided feedback that will be used in the final development of the platform. Most of the participants in the workshops approved the didactics of the exercises and the graphic design of the platform. Some of their recommendations for future development of the platform included: adding more vocabulary to the units, getting from one exercise to the next to be easier, etc.

Testing

Testing by paramedics will continue from June to September 2015. 25 paramedics from Bulgaria, Germany and Portugal and 50 paramedics from Poland will test the platform. The draft version of the Testing plan envisages that each tester should complete at least 2 questionnaires in order to provide the partnership with their feedback on the functionality of the platform. Members of the partnership will summarize the testing results and will fully support paramedics if they encounter some difficulties in the testing process. Apart from paramedics the testers could be nurses, fire brigade staff, paramedics’ educators, etc. All participants in the testing phase will receive a certificate. As a leader of the testing activities Gesaude will supervise their implementation in all partner countries. The Portuguese partner is also responsible for the creation of the Common report from testing which will be prepared after the end of the testing process. Participating in the testing paramedics will help for developing a product that will be very useful for themselves and in the meantime improve their English language knowledge.

What’s next?

Besides testing, the next steps of the partnership are the development of the content for the rest of the training units and the recording of podcasts. Also a Delivery System user guide that will be translated to all languages of the partnership will be created by the end of May 2015. It will describe the platform and its operation from the user point of view. Procedures like logging in, changing password, taking course, uploading own podcasts will be explained there. Partners agreed that the last partner meeting and final dissemination conference will be held on the 19-th and 20-th of November 2015 in Rzeszow, Poland. The latter will be a huge dissemination event that will be attended by 200 paramedics and other stakeholders. During this event participants will be introduced to the platform, the results of the testing phase and the concept of using podcasting methodology in education.
If you want to find more about the project and its activities, please, follow the project website and social media channels above!