

LIFELONG LEARNING - SUPPORTING ACCESS TO DISTANCE LEARNING

This DP is addressing the issue of access for all to the information society and, more particularly, the integration of ICTs in the process of lifelong learning. The challenge is to address the discrimination in accessing distance learning courses by several target groups. The key strength of the project relates to the structuring of distance learning for the whole of the Walloon territory, involving a wide variety of actors at regional and local level.

Although distance-learning courses have been developed in the Walloon area, there is no structure or organisation on a wider level to co-ordinate them, therefore it is especially difficult for employees of SMEs and unemployed people to participate in distance learning.

The main activities being undertaken by this DP group into four distinct sub-projects: developing on-line courses; studying the methodology of pedagogical instruments; setting up a web portal regrouping all existing distance learning courses; and finally the evaluation of the DP.

It is important to implement the distance learning scheme in an already existing structure of training. The work builds on existing distance learning models. The design and development of the web portal functions as an information website, which can be used by SMEs in order to organise their courses.

The virtual coordination platform has an important mainstreaming function as well as the information web portal which contains a structured overview on existing e-learning courses. The methodological guide for distance learning will be used beyond the activities of the project.

The DP is innovative in various ways. First of all, in relation to the partnership, training centres have associated themselves with research centres, this is especially innovative in the field of SMEs. Secondly, as to the content of the DP, distance learning already exists but there is no clear view on its use. It is therefore innovative to structure the courses available online and to spread this source of information throughout the Walloon territory. Thirdly, the target group is a mixed one, involving employees of SMEs, unemployed as well as trainers themselves. Finally, the DP is employing innovative use of ICTs. The DP has put in place a coordination site, a sort of platform which serves as discussion forum for all the partners included in the DP.

The development of the web portal, which contains extensive information on e-learning courses, will be the main sustainable result of the project, along with the guide for distance learning.

DP information

Member State: Belgium

DP Identifier: Befr-38

Link to [DP website](#)

Link to [EQUAL database description](#)

All comments and information should be emailed to empl-equal-etg3@ec.europa.eu