How to engage **young learners** in **workplace training** via mobile assisted **learning**

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Since the first months, project partners have been doing research to find out what needs to be considered during the project, particularly focusing on the four selected work sectors (tourism, health & care, construction and food production), modern education provision and employment issues low-qualified young adults are facing in Norway, Spain, Italy and Turkey. In this context, a collective **"REACH - *Didactic and Technical Framework Concept"*** has been developed which includes all the primary and secondary data collected by all the project partners in their region. The results covered the following issues:

1) There are several **challenges regarding basic skills** for the target group:

- Low quality of education systems in the majority of target countries.

- Early school leavers with EU27 average of 14%; leaving school is one of the major barriers for the basic skills development.

- Unsatisfactory adult education and low participation in lifelong learning activities in the target countries.

2) ***The unemployment rates are alarming*** *in Europe including the target countries.* There is a negative correlation between education level and the unemployment rates. The young adults with no or only a low level of knowledge and basic skills are increasingly out of work.

3) *Primary data collected in order to analyse* ***current training needs, requirements and provision in the target sectors*** *indicate that:* besides the basic skills (reading, writing, basic numeracy) and learning to learn, social skills and communication, languages, ICT, customer care and problem solving are highly demanded competences by HR managers for the employees to perform their jobs better.

4) ***Mobile learning is in a very early stage in all of the target countries.*** As long as it is not a well known method, the creation of a user manual or guidelines for young learners and trainers is needed to support them.

5) *Since the majority of* ***young learners have left compulsory education***, *being involved again in educational activities will be challenging for them.* Therefore, the mobile learning should be designed as an attractive tool which overcomes their reluctance to participate.

6) *The primary data, which were collected through interviews with the target group, reveal that* ***almost all of the young adults have mobile phones.*** However, the majority of them do not have smart phones and only one sixth of them are using the internet on their mobile phones. These rates are compatible with the general situation, creating a barrier for the implementation of m-learning.
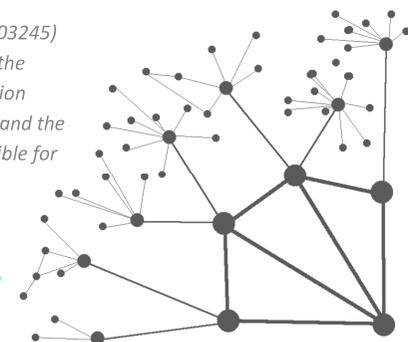
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On the contrary, young individuals are very familiar with using mobile applications and volunteers of m-learning. Together with the fast technological developments, it is supposed that they will have full access to smart phones and mobile internet in two or three years' time. It can be said that the future of m-learning looks bright and REACH will create one of the apps which take the lead.

*7) The company managers, trainers and counsellors, along with young learners, believe that **using mobile devices would be useful for training.*** REACH - as a source of m-learning on basic skills and customer care development - is considered as recommendable to their employees, colleagues and students.

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*8) The **REACH mobile learning app is currently in preparation** and has the following features the partners have all agreed upon:*

- Interesting to young learners with new multimedia aspects.
- Easy-to-use.
- Flexible; compatible with different operating systems.
- Also appealing to learners working in sectors other than tourism, health, construction and food production.
- Tips for users and trainers.
- Didactic Guidelines for users, trainers/tutors and HR managers.

NEXT STEP

The third partner meeting will take place in *Stavanger, Norway, in Sept 2012.* The partnership will discuss the validation of the REACH prototypes and their implementation in Norway, Italy, Spain and Turkey.

Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme
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