SVEA – A DEMONSTRATION ON HOW TO PROMOTE THE WEB 2.0 UPTAKE IN VET AND ADULT TRAINING IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

Petra Newrly, MFG Baden-Württemberg mbH, Ilse Op de Beeck, EuroPACE ivzw, Wim Van Petegem, EuroPACE ivzw, Lara Marcellin, CSP Innovazione nelle ICT, Tony Toole, Coleg Sir Gâr

What the SVEA demonstration will be about?

The SVEA project addresses the collaboration and web 2.0 skills of teachers and trainers in VET and adult training institutions with a special focus on personnel and organisational development. Personnel and organisational development plays a significant role in the strategic development of every organisation. Especially for organisations whose business concept is based on the knowledge of highly qualified employees such as training institutions, who are dependent on innovative personnel and organisational management concepts.

To strengthen the trainers' competences in the use of social media in their training courses, SVEA has developed a training programme to train the trainer on how to integrate social media tools within their training courses. In parallel with this, a collaborative open source based online platform has been developed which allows the trainers firstly to learn and to work collaboratively together and secondly to use the collaborative online platform to offer more learner-centred teaching methods to their students by using social media applications within their training courses.

The SVEA demonstration will focus on the newly developed collaborative online platform and will both outline how it can increase virtual collaboration within the VET and adult training sector in Europe, but also how it can innovate the management processes and organisation within the training institutions. During the session not only the technical possibilities and functionalities of the platform will be demonstrated, but attention will be also paid to the training concept and how the training modules and platform can be used in a good way within the own context as well as within the organisation.

Novel characteristics of SVEA

The use of new forms of collaborative online working, communicating and teaching, using technology, in the VET and adult training sector in Europe is still not very common. The increased use and promotion of the benefits, of new innovative web-based forms of working, qualification and communication processes through the usage of innovative social media tools within VET and adult training institution is therefore the main focus of the SVEA project.

The following novel characteristics can be outlined:

- The training material is directly developed for the needs of trainers as well as the management in the VET and adult training sector.

- The collaborative SVEA platform is an open learning platform developed with OpenAtrium, a content management system based on the Drupal framework. It is therefore free of charge for every interested institution or single trainer. The platform is characterized by a very easy-to-use interface and offers the following functionalities and features: workspace based on groups; multilingual environment; personal and customizable dashboard; personal profile; notifications; blog; micro blogging; wiki; case tracker; calendar; file repository; ToDo list; OpenID & LDAP integration; the ability to bookmark content inside the platform.

- Openness: The SVEA platform is accessible and downloadable by everyone free of charge. Any interested training institution can thus install and integrate the new developed platform into their own system and adapt it to their own purpose. By strengthening the collaborative aspect of learning and working, it further strengthens the open production of content and the open exchange of knowledge

between the participants. Additionally, all new developed functionalities will be transferred to the larger OpenAtrium community **which** consequently also benefits of SVEA's developments and can develop them further.

Why is the SVEA demonstration relevant to the EDEN conference?

By offering Web 2.0 in education training to trainers from VET and adult training institutions, and by offering an open collaborative online platform, SVEA plans to make a substantial contribution to the increase in the use of virtual collaboration in the lifelong learning field in Europe as well as to sustainable learning communities of the future. It also raises the awareness of trainers regarding new flexible learning and teaching methods, as well as the training institutions' management in setting up innovative institutional processes such as collaborative knowledge management processes in using social media tools.

At the same time, SVEA aims to strengthen the openness of the learning society as all participants learn about the benefits of Web 2.0 tools and gain experience in working collaboratively and exchanging their knowledge in an open and collaborative way. Within their learning groups, which can be created on the SVEA platform, the participants can set up their own learning spaces through which they can establish sustainable learning groups on different topics of interest, which further contributes to an open and flexible learning environment. All these activities will further strengthen the knowledge society in a sustainable way.

Web address

SVEA website: www.svea-project.eu
SVEA platform: http://svea.csp.it/
Username: eden-conference
Login: svea

Acknowledgement: