



DEPICT: Developing Employability Programmes using Interactive Programme Technologies

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Abstract

University careers and employability services are increasingly under pressure to deliver more with less to reach more students and graduates with less resources. Interactive learning technologies can offer a solution to this challenge by enabling programmes to be 'scaled up' to meet a wider number of beneficiaries.

The University of Salford, in partnership with University Miguel Hernandez (Spain), University of Agders (Norway), Riga International School of Economics and Business Administration (Latvia), The Business Group (UK), Business Confederation of the Province of Alicante (Spain), Entrepreneurship Training Academy (Norway) and the Motion Picture Industry of Latvia (Latvia) successfully bid to the ERASMUS Lifelong Learning Programme for funding to develop a programme of online employability skills training to be tested on students from each partner countries.

The project has worked with employers from Creative and Cultural small and medium sized enterprises in each country in the partnership to understand the skills they require from graduates, and gain a European perspective on employer needs in this fast-growing sector

The workshops established a core set of employability skills valued by businesses in the creative and cultural sector across Europe – creativity, entrepreneurship, ICT skills and self-awareness. A programme of seminars is being created to develop these skills in students from each country in the partnership using four distinct learning technologies to deliver the training. Each country has one skill and one technology to develop, forming a coherent curriculum across the partnership.

The proposed paper will focus on disseminating findings of the project so far, particularly with regards to experiences of working with employers across a diverse range of economic climates and the challenges of creating a cohesive and relevant programme of learning for students in all the partner countries.