



SKILLS - Skills, Knowledge within Innovative Lifelong Learning System

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Abstract

Skills, co-funded by the LLP (Leonardo da Vinci sub-programme) of the European Commission, is a project designed to improve the quality of cooperative member qualifications and competences by developing a new curriculum based on specific and shared cooperative characteristics present in the different European countries (mainly Italy, Sweden and Spain). The learning system developed within the project not only seeks to respond to specific training needs of a cooperative enterprise, but also analyses and especially validates existing non formal and informal learning opportunities, in order to create an innovative model with different methodological approaches and contents to promote the cooperative culture and entrepreneurship. The system was designed as a flexible tool to be used in different learning contexts, whether in vocational training or within schools programme. The validation process, of fundamental importance to enhance cooperative skills and for the innovation of the project, focused mainly upon:

- The learning system;
- A balance of skills for cooperators;
- A co-operator curriculum.

The informal and non-formal learning occasions present in a cooperative enterprise were identified to provide innovative and relevant contents for the learning system. A balance of skills was devised to collect the specific and transversal competences necessary within a cooperative enterprise. A cooperative curriculum was designed to consider the three levels of cooperative members (potential, effective, board) to establish what they should know in order to be more active and aware within their cooperative enterprises. The whole training process was put into practice through active work carried out by each partner in the form of seminars and courses, which were supported by a facilitator guide to help organize interactive meetings and to validate the necessary cooperative competences revealed. Also part of the methodology were itinerant workshops supported by a catalogue of visits based on case studies, as concrete way to enhance cooperative skills and meaning by strengthening cooperative identity, knowledge, awareness and sense of belonging.