

BLENDED LEARNING BEST PRACTICES

OpenITup - Boosting Adult Educator Competences to Upskill Pathways of Adult Learners	
https://www.openitup.eu/	
15.10.2017 – 14.04.2020	Olena Korzhykova from DomSpain Consulting SL and the project consortium of different partner organisations
Element	Guiding questions
Type of document	OpenITup is a 30-month Erasmus+ KA204 project aiming to extend and develop educators' competences in the effective teaching of literacy, digital and entrepreneurial skills to vulnerable groups of adult learners, by making use of effective new tools and technologies.
Publisher	The project consortium of partners (DomSpain Consulting SL; Collegium Balticum; edEUcation ltd; IDEC SA; Les Cultures; Nikanor, University of Usak, Wisamar Bildungsgesellschaft gemeinnützige GmbH)
Target audience	The platform addresses two different target groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educators of adult learners of vulnerable target groups • adult learners
Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship • Digital skills
Objective	<p>OpenITup was designed for adult educators of vulnerable target groups to enhance their knowledge and skills so that they can effectively teach literacy, digital and entrepreneurial skills to adults who want to become self-employed. The educators shall get used to effective new tools and technologies.</p> <p>The second target group are the learners themselves for whom the e-course „Start Your Own Business” was created to foster their skills in entrepreneurship.</p>
Location /geographical coverage	The platform is available online and thus everyone who speaks on the partner languages or English can make use of the developed materials. It was developed and tested in the project partner countries UK, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, Poland, Greece and Germany).
Introduction	The idea behind OpenITup was to foster entrepreneurship especially among unemployed adults from vulnerable target groups (low-qualified/low-educated, NEETS, unemployed, refugees, migrants, marginalized) to give them the necessary skills to start their own businesses, especially in times of high unemployment rates all over Europe. To achieve this the primary target group was adult educators. The project started in late 2017 and ended in April 2020.

Stakeholders and Partners	<p>The target group is adult educators and adult learners. The partners who worked in the project are the same as the publishers (see above) – the project consortium. Together they developed the materials and created the platform.</p>
Financing Body	<p>The good practice was financed by the European Commission in the framework of the program Erasmus+. No other funds were needed.</p>
Context	<p>The idea came up in Spain from the project coordinator. They are active in adult education. The unemployment rate is relatively high in some European countries. This affects primarily adults from the vulnerable target groups who are the ones that face the highest hurdles when it's about getting a job. They are often low-skilled and have many competitors on the labour market. For them a good chance of a better participation in society could be self-employment. But they need help to achieve this. Therefore they need qualified adult educators who support them with getting the necessary knowledge, skills and competences. The project consortium wanted to address these needs and thus the project came into life.</p>
The main objectives	<p>The project intended to create a platform both for educators and adult learners with different materials to allow educators to equip adult learners with the necessary linguistic, digital and entrepreneurial skills to become self-employed.</p>
The description of the practice	<p>The partnership developed an E-course with the title „Start Your Own Business” in the partner languages for educators and adult learners. The educators can use the contents for teaching their learners and the learners can complete the course on their own. The second product of the project is a toolkit for the target groups with ICT skills upgrading materials and teaching resources in the field of entrepreneurship. On the platform are also webinars available for educators with teaching and learning tools (mostly ICT and digital tools) and videos about European start-ups where they explain how their business ideas came up, the problems they had to deal with and other useful information.</p> <p>The contents are available for free, just a registration is needed.</p>
Outcomes of the practice	<p>The project reached many people. More than 200 people attended the multiplier events in the partner countries. 117 registered users took part in the pilot training run (87 of them filled in the afterwards the evaluation of the training). The dissemination activities in the participating countries reached several thousand people through newsletters, posts in the social media, articles and the project website itself.</p> <p>As immeasurable effect can be stated that users of the platform and the materials increase their linguistic, digital and entrepreneurial skills. They will be equipped with new impetus.</p> <p>The project was awarded with the EAEA Grundtvig Award 2019 for European projects. This is a proof of the good quality of the developed contents and the usefulness of the project.</p>

Success Factors	Both target groups – adult educators and adult learners – must be willing and open to learn new contents. The educators should work with the products on the platform before in detail so that they are able to use them for the adult learners.
Constraints	As constraint can only be counted the limited availability of languages. The course and materials are only available in the partner languages. This means that the user has to speak English or one of the partner languages to get access.
Lessons learned	<i>What are the key messages and lessons learned to take away from the good practice experience, for men as much as for women?</i>
Sustainability	The good practice is still available online for the next years. The e-learning course and the materials can still be used for free, only a registration is necessary. Teachers and trainers can use the course and materials within the frame of their lessons as e-learning or blended-learning approach.
Development of the practice	The practice will not be further developed as the course and materials were finished and are still available online.
Conclusion	The good practice is very useful for teachers and for learners. One of the participating educators stated as feedback of the pilot run: <i>“My students enjoyed the sessions a lot. They found it very new and attractive to talk about entrepreneurship in group-sessions because they could share their personal experiences, doubts, fears and difficulties encountered. They preferred those activities that included debating and talking about certain current and up to date topics, such as social media and marketing.”</i> The feedback from the learners was overall positive as well. One of them said about the course: <i>“Before starting the course I believed I knew much more about the labour market and business. Now I have realised how complex this whole world is. These sessions have really caught my attention and will help me in a near future with my business ideas.”</i> These two short feedbacks are exemplary for the numerous positive feedbacks of the participants. The blended way of teaching this material definitely has advantages as can be seen in the first statements.
Related resources that have been developed	The platform is available under: www.openitup.eu . All developed materials and the course can be found there.
Language(s)	The platform is available in the partner languages English, Bulgarian, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Turkish. The material for educators is available in the different partner languages, but the material is different and designed to the countries. The e-course for learners is available in English, Bulgarian, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and Turkish languages.
Contact details	



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