



Supporting the Transition from Education to
Employment of Youth at Risk

**IO1 - Task 3: STEER e-training platform and e-portal requirements
report**

Task 3 - STEER e-training platform and e-portal requirements report

To start with, one of the seven outputs of the STEER project is the development of the Youth workers' STEER online portal. INNOVADE LI Ltd is leading this output and has already led a series of web production project related to the design and development of innovate educational technologies including games, mobile application and online tools. It has also provided educational technology solution to organizations, training institutions and networks, related to capacity building, training and education.

The main objective of this output is to develop, test and maintain the STEER portal based on this report which outlines the requirements of the e-training platform. The development of the STEER portal consists of three tasks:

1. Development of the STEER online portal, consisting of the project website and an e-training platform
2. Pilot testing of the website and platform and official launch
3. Technical administration, maintenance and monitoring of the platform.

Task 1

The professionally designed project website will provide key information related to the project progress, the deliverables, the partners and the funding agency. Moreover, it will be a central point where all the project deliverables and services will be made available. Through the project website, interested parties will be able to contact the partners and relevant stakeholders and get information on upcoming events & workshops in the context of the project.

The project website will also facilitate the exchange of good practice in the area and provide target groups and stakeholders with access to relevant resources. Authorized users will be able to share resources and join discussions relevant to the project. The website will be publicized and promoted in multiple ways, to ensure broad dissemination to the target audience of the project.

The project website will be developed with the use of a free open-source Content Management System (CMS) such as Joomla and WordPress, to allow for low cost maintenance.

The STEER e-training platform will be used as a virtual learning environment where users will be able to find the online modules, participate in learning activities, use assessment tools to evaluate their performance and communicate with other learners and instructors. The design and development of the STEER e-training platform will be based on the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, so that its open teaching material is accessible to both disabled learners and education professionals. Open access technical constraints as well as high performance requirements imposed by the transnational character of the project will be addressed.

The e-training platform will be developed using a well-established open-source Learning Management System (LMS) such as Moodle (freely available at <http://moodle.org/>), to allow for low cost maintenance.

Special attention will be given to the integration of the project website and the e-training platform, in order to ensure visitors and learners have a smooth experience and can find both the website and the platform easily.

The STEER e-training platform and project website will be used to host a database of digital resources, multimedia content and the Trainers Manual, parts of which will concern the users' guide for the

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website and platform. Furthermore, the project website and e-training platform will follow the same look and feel and will be integrated in order to ensure easy access to both

A variety of online interactive tools will be developed in order to facilitate the learning process and to promote social networking and information sharing among target groups and stakeholders. The online educational and collaborative tools will be integrated in the online platform of the project and be available to all registered users. The final selection of the tools will be concluded after an extensive review, in order to ensure the selected tools will be beneficial in the project context.

The STEER online portal will consist of the following sections:

1. Basic project website with information about the STEER project (in accordance to EACEA requirements). This part of the platform will be to be monitored and updated by the partner responsible for dissemination).
2. E-Training platform hosting Online Courses (each course may include training material, video lectures, digital textbooks etc.)
3. Forum space (for end-users discussion and peer learning, networking and informal learning- it will be based on web 2.0 tools and a forum to be monitored and updated by the partner responsible for the development of the website).

Technical Requirements:

Hardware

- Disk space: At least 5GB
- Backup space: At least 10GB
- Memory: 1GB or more is strongly recommended

Software

- Linux, Windows or CentOS operating system
- Apache 2.4+ or IIS web server
- PHP 5.3.10 or newer
- MySQL 5.5 or newer

The website and platform will be tested to work on all modern browsers.

Task 2

After the development of the STEER portal, a series of alpha and beta testing will take place in order to assess the stability and usability of the platform. Pilot testing will allow for a formative evaluation of the platform and the collection of real user feedback. The feedback collected will drive platform updates in order to improve user experience and increase the effectiveness of the platform.

Depending on the results of beta testing, the official launch the platform will take place immediately after the testing and whatever patching is needed will be applied while the platform is already been used. If serious defects are found during beta testing, then its launch will be postponed for a maximum of ten working days.

Task 3

Following its launch, the STEER e-training platform and website will be continuously monitored and updated throughout the duration of the project. The platform and website will be maintained in a functional mode for at least 5 years after the end of the project. This process will involve updating the platform core and plugins, uploading new learning material, ensuring the smooth operation of the platform and performing updates and fixes when necessary. In addition, visitors will be able to contact the Help Desk via email for any technical issues they might face. A dedicated support team will be in charge of managing the Help Desk and respond to queries based on availability and urgency.

Conclusion

A questionnaire template was prepared and addressed to NEETs and young unemployed. The questionnaire was available in the five consortium languages and English. All partners actively promoted the filling-in of the questionnaires by the largest number of their respective focus group possible. The questionnaires' analysis revealed the setbacks that hinder the transition of NEETs and young unemployed from education to transition.

More specifically, after analyzing the results of the questionnaires it was found that more than 40% of the people questioned, considered **Digital competence** to be the most important for a youth worker mentoring them during their labour market transition. This fact clearly shows the big importance of the development of a friendly user, practical and innovative e-training platform and e-portal for the STEER project.

As mentioned before INNOVADE LI Ltd is leading this output and has already led a series of web production project related to the design and development of innovate educational technologies including games, mobile application and online tools. It has also provided educational technology solution to organizations, training institutions and networks, related to capacity building, training and education. INNOVADE LI Ltd will make sure that a friendly user, practical and innovative e-training platform and e-portal will be developed in order to support the transition from education to employment for NEETs and young unemployed which is the overall objective of the STEER project.

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These are some of the e-training platforms and e-portals that INNOVADE LI Ltd has created for similar projects:

Project eFinLit: <http://www.efinlit.eu/elearning/>

User name: test Password: test

Project RecovEU: <http://recoveu.org/index.php/en/component/users/?view=login>

User name: test Password: test

Project MEET: <http://migranthealth.eu/etraining/>

User name: student Password: Stud450-ent

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