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UnderstandIT

Understand IT - Using business models and results from the Vitae, iQTool and eTutor Portal projects to increase ICT skills and competences of VET teachers, trainers, tutors and technical staff.

Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

http://aitel.hist.no/understandit/

Aims

The main aim of the project is to increase ICT competences among VET teachers, trainers and tutors (Leo-TraInno-3).
The Leonardo project Vitae has developed a pedagogical model of how to teach VET teachers, trainers and tutors new ICT skills. The model is documented in the handbook: "Mentoring For 21st Century Skills, It's all about the Learning". The overall goal of understand IT is to take the results from the Vitae project further to new institutions, new countries, cultures and languages.
Another goal is to develop a generic business model that can be a tool for other European institutions for implementing the Vitae course is a sustainable way.
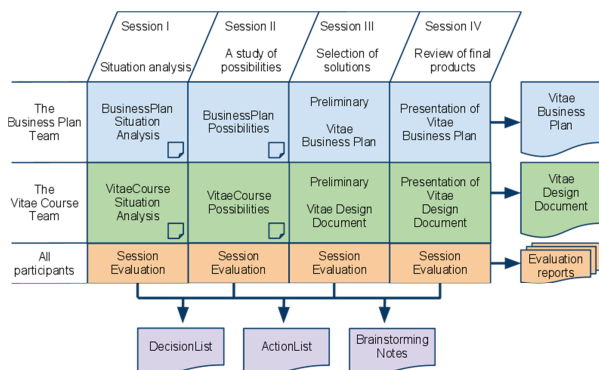
Target groups

- VET teachers, tutors and trainers
- Teachers in schools and universities who need to integrate ICT into their learning activities
- Net-learning teachers
- Instructional designers
- Managers who plan to implement new courses into their course portfolio in a sustainable way
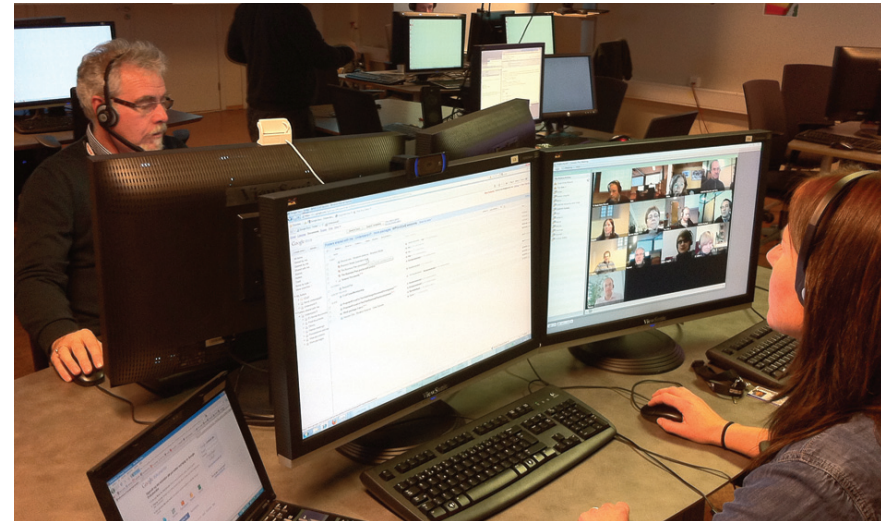
Methodology for development and research

The Norwegian method Concurrent eLearning Design (CCeD) has been used to further develop the Vitae course and the Business plan. The method is very useful when different professional experts are working together to develop a project, like developing a Business plan or an online or campus course. In Understand IT we have only two expert groups, one for the Business plan and one for the Vitae course. The work is organized in four online sessions: the situation analyses; the study of possibilities; the selection of solutions and at last the final product presentation. The sessions are used to discuss and integrate the work. Normally the sessions takes place in a Concurrent Design room where all the experts have access to PCs and software tools

WP03 - Session plan

	Session I	Session II	Session III	Session IV	
	Situation analysis	A study of possibilities	Selection of solutions	Review of final products	
The Business Plan Team	BusinessPlan Situation Analysis	BusinessPlan Possibilities	Preliminary Vitae Business Plan	Presentation of Vitae Business Plan	Vitae Business Plan
The Vitae Course Team	VitaeCourse Situation Analysis	VitaeCourse Possibilities	Preliminary Vitae Design Document	Presentation of Vitae Design Document	Vitae Design Document
All participants	Session Evaluation	Session Evaluation	Session Evaluation	Session Evaluation	Evaluation reports

DecisionList ActionList Brainstorming Notes

that are important for their work. In the room there are great possibilities to share screens, display results on large monitors etc. As part of the Understand IT project we have enlarged the working space to include experts situated in different countries collaborating with experts in the CCD room, and the method is turned into Distributed Concurrent Design. For the work we have chosen Google docs as a common software tool, and Adobe connect as a platform for synchronous communication during the sessions. Research data from the sessions are collected and presented in Evaluation reports. As part of the dissemination from Understand IT several research papers have been published.

How we work distributed from the CCD room.

Results

The Vitae approach is based on social constructivist principles and relies on the sharing of skills between peers. In understand IT the Vitae course is further developed, using coaching. The aim of the course is for VET teachers to be able to select net based recourses that are suitable for their learning activities and to integrate ICT tools in those activities where appropriate. The course is adapted to learning cultures and languages in Norway, Lithuania, Italy and Portugal.
A CoP – **Community of Practice** is developed where teachers and tutors can exchange ideas and learning resources.
Based on experiences from running Vitae courses in four countries, a **Generic business model** is developed. The model can then be used to adapt and run Vitae courses in institutions all over Europe.