Design of the eco-system of the Open Badges for the validation of the digital skills of adult educators

Based on the results of the benchmark survey (IO1), the development of the Up-skilling Digital Competence Framework with benchmarks and indicators to meet the e-skills essential for Adult Educators to upgrade their support for adult learners in the digital era (IO2), the production of the Training material and Visual Digital Guides (IO3), the two main aim of IO4 is:

- To design and develop the eco-system based on the Up-skilling Digital Competence Framework (IO2) in terms of objectives and links between the assessment tools (IO3), structure (level, hierarchy and connections), criteria and description for issuers, graphic design, technological integration with the e-platform IO5) and endorsement procedure (IO7).
- To pilot-test and review the use of the OPEN BADGES as mechanism/ method for the recognition, validation and endorsement of the digital skills acquired by Adult Educators which can offer transferability, transparency, validity, credibility and reliability.
- To initiate the endorsement of the validation process and the OPEN BADGES by official bodies in order to ensure validity and recognition by creating the 'Network of trust'.

 The introduction of this recognition and validation process through the use of the Open Badges is an added value to the project, as it will enable AdEd to have a valid proof of this learning which can be added to their CV, profile or portfolio in addition to the Europass Certificate and the Certificate of Participation. The OPEN BADGES is a motivating procedure which will encourage and provide incentives for AdEd to continue their participation. It is linked to the digital skills, as OPEN BADGES are created on-line through the use of an open-platform and can be shown on various personal pages, such as FB, Twitter, LinkedIN etc. In addition, AdEd will be able to use this method for their own teaching for adult learners in order to motivate them to participate in LLL opportunities.

The creation of the OPEN BADGES is linked to all Intellectual Outputs: IO2 (Competece Framework, as the benchmarks will be used as levels, for the Badges to be awarded), IO3 (Teaching Material, as one will be devoted to the use of this process whereas tests/challenges will have to be created), IO5 (Platform, as the Badges will have to linked to the AdEd Digital Profiles and the assessment process to the levels to be used for awarding Badges), IO6 (implementation, as the validation process will be pilot-tested) and IO7 (Strategy for endorsement and exploitation of the whole digital professional development programme)

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE TASKS LEADING TO THE PRODUCTION OF THE INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT AND THE APPLIED METHODOLOGY

The tasks leading to the production of the I.O. are:

1. Preparation of a Handbook:

P3 will initially provide partners with template and guidelines which will be used to create the OPEN BADGE Handbook. The Handbook will contain all actions that need to be taken to create the eco-system, in relation to the structure (level, hierarchy and connections), criteria and description for issuers, graphic design, technological integration with the e-platform IO5) and endorsement procedure (IO6).

In order to prepare the Handbook the following decisions/actions/tasks will have to be made:

1. Identify within the Digital Competence Framework design in IO2 the benchmarks and indicators which are crucial and can be linked to specific levels of the OB i.e. levels that need to be achieved in order for an AdEd to receive an Open Badge.
2. Create the structure (levels, hierarchy connections between single badges or group of badges) and the way they can be linked together i.e. two badges can be allocated to the core use and advance use of POWERPOINT.
3. Allocate a task/ test/ challenge that needs to be accomplished to be awarded with each Open Badge and make the necessary links with IO3 and IO5 in relation to the assessment process and the tool to be used.
4. Develop graphic design of badge system and each single badge.
5. Define technological integration and requirements for seamless experience in using Open Badges for recognition of AdEd digital skills.
6. Investigate possible ways that Open Badges can be endorsed by external organisations and stakeholders.
7. Provide the framework, methodology and the quality assurance metrics to be taken during this process to build the validity and credibility of badge issuers (such as Ministries, validation bodies, Local authorities etc.) in order to ensure endorsement.
8. Initiate the practical arrangements (registration, creation of personal profile, group members, labeling etc.) on the Open Platform to be used (i.e. www.badgecraft.eu).

2. Pilot-testing, review and finalisation of the OB eco-system:

Based on the actions/ decisions taken above all partners will be involved in an initial practical implementation to create on-line one of the badges in order to familiarise themselves with

the process. P3 will set up a group so that all partners will be able to view the Badges created for the purposes of the project.

3. Technical integration with IO5 - platform and assessment procedure:

Investigation and actions to link the eco-system of the Open Badges

The applied methodology is described below:

Organisational and overall approach: All partners will be actively involved. Based on the partners' expertise, P3/P2 will be the leading and supporting organizations with high coordination, support and monitoring roles. The format of the I.O.s products (i.e. Screening Tests, curriculum development and content, ICT Guides, training material, evaluation and validation procedures, etc) will be decided by the Management Committee at the first meeting.

Allocation of tasks:

P3- Activity Leading Organisation (LO) and P2- Supporting Organisations:

1. Organisation, management, coordination, provision of support and monitoring of Output 3 as well as cooperation with the Management Committee (MC) and the Advisory Group.
2. Set up a road-map for the production of I.O.44 with milestones and allocation of responsibilities for each partner based on proposal and expertise.
3. Design a draft template for the design of the OPEN BADGES Handbook and the guidelines for practical use (for hard copy and electronic form).
4. Design a template for the levels, hierarchy and structure of the OB in relation to the Screening Tests in 2 levels (Audit skills), the ICT Challenges to be taken.
5. Provide initial guidelines for the practical use of the open platform to create OB.
6. Allocate responsibilities to partners (see above).
7. Prepare the initial discussion for the design of the Up-skilling Kit (IO6) to be published and uploaded on e-platform.
8. Translate and publish of products of IO4.
9. Initiate discussion for IO5 for the professional development training of adult Educators
10. Investigate further the validation possibilities of the Adult Educators professional training.

All partners will cooperate in the following:

1. Contribute towards the design of the templates of the Handbook and guidelines.
2. Design certain OB as allocated for specific levels.
3. Contribute towards the production of the Handbook based on allocate roles/ tasks.
4. P3 and P6 to provide the e-platform to upload the handbook and guidelines of target groups.
5. Support the final design of all products in hard copy and e-form, upload information etc.
6. translation, localisation and publication.

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