
*e*NEWSLETTER

Post Project Issue

2007

eBCM-VET, eBusiness Community Model – Vocational Education and Training Project



Successful Conference in Bucharest

A Paradigm shift in work environment

The eBCM-VET project was successfully concluded with an international summary conference held in Bucharest last October. The conference was organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and attended by European stakeholders and experts in vocational education and training.

The focus of the conference, attracting the attention of representation from government, organisations and business community, was on training for staff and management having to use ICT in their work. The results from the eBCM-VET project were introduced in a vocational education and training (VET) context as well as experience from pilots carried out in two of the partner countries, Estonia and Iceland.

The speakers and guests were in agreement that the eBCM-VET project carried a valuable message into the development of vocational education and training methods and material. The enablement of ICT use in business is of interest in all sectors and at all community levels and the eBCM-VET shows one approach how people can be assisted in becoming active participants in the Global paradigm shift.

The eBCM-VET project is an international cross-cultural project with partners from Estonia, Finland, Iceland and Romania, all members of the ETeB network of organisations sharing a common vision of becoming eBusiness communities.

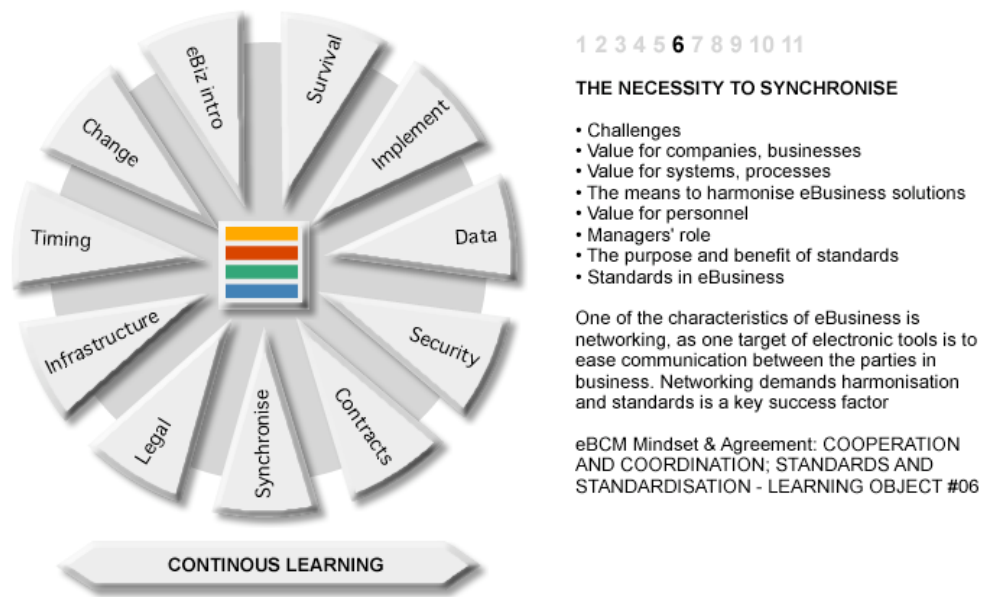
The Outcome of the eBCM-VET A Training Wheel

Office workers and managers are today faced with multiple challenges in their evolving working environment. Enterprises and organisations are increasingly taking ICT into use in their operations, streamlining their business processes and communication, i.e. becoming eBusinesses or eOrganisations. For the individual employee this calls for new skills and knowledge, the change being seen either as an opportunity for advancement or a threat to job security. The kernel of the eBCM-VET project was to investigate and respond to which skills and knowledge office staff and managers need to have to be able to utilise efficiently the new ICT tools and methods.

For the purpose of recognising the skills and knowledge, studies were conducted in the participating countries, using two different kinds of focus groups, one for staff and another for management.

Guided by the outcome of the studies, the project partners' designed a train-the-trainers course where the main idea was to train in-house people in the skill of teaching their colleagues about eBusiness. This way the knowledge would gradually accumulate and spread within the company, leading to a better understanding and synchronisation of company ICT enabled processes. Even though the course is designed for a selected target group and sector, its content is quite general and can be used for almost any sector and any operation where processes depend on office workers and ICT.

The centrepiece of the course design and project deliverable is the eBCM Training Wheel



The wheel serves as a gateway to the study material, enabling the trainer to introduce all the elements of the course to the trainees while investigating their interest and motivation. By utilising the assessment tools and study programme templates developed in the project, the trainer can promote and gradually navigate with the trainee through the 12 study packages compiled (text and slides), called “learning objects” (LOs). After going through the whole set, or at least through the LOs which are directly job related, the trainee (employee) will have acquired the better knowledge and understanding of eBusiness and the new rising elements of his work environment.

The overall outcome of the eBCM-VET project and its pilots is the following:

- The target group and sector are well served with a course of the design developed in the eBCM-VET project.
- Further work can be done on the material, especially the LOs. Text and its presentation can be improved, slides as well, the selection of field exercises increased, references to additional material (such as case studies) included and additional media used.
- The Training Wheel (Tool) is already considered quite helpful for both trainers and trainees as a navigation tool giving easy access and overview of the material.

The Follow-up

The lessons learned in the eBCM-VET project are considered as valuable and should be followed up. The project partners foresee the follow-up actions:

- Select a venue for future hosting of the project’s deliverables.
- Develop the material and web presence to a stage of public distribution.
- Select a sustainable education and training platform
- Promote the course to stakeholder and VET communities in partners’ and other European countries.
- Make the Training Wheel interactive.

The project partners are all supporters of continuing the work done in the eBCM-VET project and to implement the project recommendations.

Partners:

Estonia - Estonian Information Technology Society

Finland - TIEKE, Information Society Development Centre

Iceland - Commercial Workers Union of Reykjavik

Iceland - Icelandic Standards

Romania - The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania

Denmark – HK, Union of Commercial and Clerical Employees in Denmark (silent partner)

eBCM-VET Promoter: Commercial Workers Union of Reykjavik, Iceland

eBCM-VET Coordinator: Icelandic Standards, Iceland – email: gudbjorg@stadlar.is