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Supporting People Affected by Cancer in their Social and Professional Life (SPAC)

Reference guide of recognition of non- formal and informal skills obtained by Internet and social media

Abstract



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Lifelong learning is a way to give all people, throughout their lifetime, the opportunity to participate fully in economic, social and civic life and to enable them to benefit from their personal potential. It is more accessible than ever, by increasing access to distance learning, individual learning and computer-aided learning, to overcome obstacles in the way of achieving a healthy life, social status, financial status, gender and ethnicity. Its accessibility is extremely widespread, but it also causes insufficient capacity to monitor, recognize efficiency and measure its outcomes. Validation must take into account all the learning and training methods of an individual, including informal and non-formal learning. Another challenge will be addressing the need for information, advice and access to validation for disadvantaged people in target groups. In our project, in order to increase the participation in the courses and in the proposed activities, all the partners were involved in the dissemination of project information and the activities carried out and non-formal and informal learning modalities have been used.

Because knowledge skills and competences can be acquired through formal, non-formal or informal learning, we have used non-formal learning methods - computer-aided and informal self-training - in different socio-educational, social or professional backgrounds. We started the classes with the creation of four major themes of interest for people who have cancer in their lives: living with cancer, communicating with people in distress, cancer at work, and Internet security for these people. Each theme was led by an experienced partner in the field, setting the objectives of the courses, assessing the needs of these people. These ideas have come from the discussions about how cancer affects people's lives and carers: relationships, employment and lifestyles, how people can learn about cancer through the use of social networks and the possibility of active learning experiences through social networks and also how to promote social networks dedicated to these kind of persons.

The attention of each partner focused on both the correctness of the information and on the list of knowledge, skills and competences that will be acquired through the courses. The materials offered were made in accordance with the characteristics (resources and vulnerabilities) of these patients, their needs and the ways of learning through the Internet. We have involved higher education institutions (UMF), but also vocational and technical education establishments, etc.

The results of non - formal and informal learning are not a standard way of evaluating, so in the project, following a wide and constructive debate of how to better evaluate the results obtained through the e - learning materials provided, two questionnaires were made: an initial one, that will provide us the information about the knowledge and the skills the participants have at the beginning of the course , but also with a benchmark against which progress can be assessed. – and one finale questionnaire , which will provide information about the level of knowledge and the abilities gained by the participants after passing through the materials.

The questionnaires have focused on assessing the level of knowledge and the skills set to be improved and developed during the project. At the end of completing the final questionnaire, if the participants answered correctly to 60% of the questionnaire, they were awarded with a performance attestation. If they did not respond correctly to at least 60% of the questions, the participant is advised to return to those questions with the wrong answers so that by going the second time through the material, they can get the information and the skills needed to obtain a better percentage, in order to win the performance certificate.

The partners will translate the questionnaire into their native languages and distribute it among relevant stakeholders in their countries.