Virtual Portal for Interaction and ICT Training for People with Disabilities

Starting date: 1 January 2011
Duration: 36 Months

PROJECT CONSORTIUM:

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY
UK – Project Contractor
NTU has extensive expertise in the development of educational games for people with disabilities.
Contact person: Professor David Brown
E-mail: david.brown@ntu.ac.uk
Website: www.ntu.ac.uk

PHOENIX KM
Belgium – Project Coordinator
PhoenixKM works on the integration of people with disabilities, the ageing population and disadvantaged groups in society, and especially in the regular labour market.
Contact person: Mr. Karel Van Isacker
E-mail: karel@phoenixkm.eu
Website: www.phoenixkm.eu

HYPERTech
Hypertech SA is among the leading IT Knowledge and Content Management firms focusing in designing, developing and implementing turn-key e-learning solutions.
Contact person: Mr. Thomas Papapolyzos
E-mail: thomas@hypertech.gr
Website: www.hypertech.gr

steFicon
Greece – Project Coordinator
SteFicon is active in the development of web and multimedia applications.
Contact person: Mr Panagiotis Tsoris
E-mail: ptsoris@steFicon.gr
Website: www.steficon.gr

EuroCy Innovations Ltd
Cyprus
EuroCy is an IT and Consulting Company, active mainly in achieving efficient adoption with technology in different societal application domains and collaborative environments. They bring to ViPi their extensive expertise in the area of Web 3.0, and specifically the semantic web.
Contact person: Mr George Milis
E-mail: george.milis@eurocyinnovations.com
Website: www.eurocyinnovations.com

ViPi
Virtual Portal for Interaction and ICT Training for People with Disabilities

This project has been partially funded under the Lifelong Learning program, subprogramme KA3 ICT. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY
UK – Project Contractor
NTU has extensive expertise in the development of educational games for people with disabilities.
Contact person: Professor David Brown
E-mail: david.brown@ntu.ac.uk
Website: www.ntu.ac.uk

PHOENIX KM
Belgium – Project Coordinator
PhoenixKM works on the integration of people with disabilities, the ageing population and disadvantaged groups in society, and especially in the regular labour market.
Contact person: Mr. Karel Van Isacker
E-mail: karel@phoenixkm.eu
Website: www.phoenixkm.eu

HYPERTech
Greece – Project Coordinator
Hypertech SA is among the leading IT Knowledge and Content Management firms focusing in designing, developing and implementing turn-key e-learning solutions.
Contact person: Mr. Thomas Papapolyzos
E-mail: thomas@hypertech.gr
Website: www.hypertech.gr

steFicon
Greece
The company is active in the development of web and multimedia applications.
Contact person: Mr Panagiotis Tsoris
E-mail: ptsoris@steFicon.gr
Website: www.steficon.gr

EuroCy Innovations Ltd
Cyprus
EuroCy is an IT and Consulting Company, active mainly in achieving efficient adoption with technology in different societal application domains and collaborative environments. They bring to ViPi their extensive expertise in the area of Web 3.0, and specifically the semantic web.
Contact person: Mr George Milis
E-mail: george.milis@eurocyinnovations.com
Website: www.eurocyinnovations.com

HITECO (High Technology for Cooperation) offers consultancy in advanced technology fields and provides a series of multimedia solutions for web and mobile applications.
Contact person: Ms. Vilma Butkute
E-mail: team@hiteconet.eu
Website: www.hiteconet.eu
The fast development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) provides alternative and creative solutions for the employment of people with disabilities. However, many people with disabilities still face difficulties in using ICTs. This coupled with the fact that ICT skills are often the employers’ first requirement for starting and retaining a job, considerably decreases their competitiveness in the labour market. ViPi envisages filling the gap of accessible and flexible basic ICT skills training, designed to meet the specific needs of people with disabilities, as well as the (SEN – special education) trainers themselves. The multilingual ViPi platform will consist of an interactive portal with a semantically enriched repository (Web 3.0) to host the learning objects (LOs), a social community area (Web 2.0) and a dedicated online learning environment to host (SCORM compliant) training courses. The resulting integrated platform will fully embrace the WCAG 2.0 accessibility guidelines level AA, as well as embed some ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) functionalities. ViPi will be an open source based platform that will offer an online ICT learning environment for people with disabilities and their trainers. It will consist of an interactive and vast repository of learning objects that focus on basic ICT literacy to allow people with disabilities to grasp this core skill. This will equip them to enter or sustain their employment in the regular labour market. The platform will be enriched with intuitive and accessible mobile and Internet/PC based educational/serious games. Additionally, a mobile Android based social application, linked with ViPi portal services, will be deployed.

**ViPi OUTCOMES:**

- State of the art analysis of ICT skills LOs for people with disabilities;
- Comparative analysis of findings in UK, LT, GR, BE & CY;
- A culturally adapted curriculum on ICT skills tailored to individual user’s needs;
- Multilingual training materials in alternative formats;
- Trainer handbook;
- Fully accessible collaborative ViPi platform;
- Serious games for desktop and mobile usage;
- Local training workshops.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Project outcomes are especially designed for people with disabilities who wish to acquire practical ICT skills and SEN trainers and learning facilitators who are willing to introduce user oriented approaches in ICT training. Secondary target groups are web developers, disability officers working in educational institutions, company training departments, supported employment and pre-vocational projects operated by third sector social partners, day care centres, bodies providing counselling and services to people with disabilities, pre-vocational groups in tertiary or non-tertiary education, governmental bodies and other Life Long Learning Programme or related projects. They will be invited to share their outcomes with ViPi, thus increasing also their visibility. Dedicated pilots will be organised in Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and the UK with local end-user groups.

**WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM ViPi?**

Project outcomes are especially designed for people with disabilities who wish to acquire practical ICT skills and SEN trainers and learning facilitators who are willing to introduce user oriented approaches in ICT training. Secondary target groups are web developers, disability officers working in educational institutions, company training departments,