CommonSpaces

Boost your Skills, Open your Future

PRESS RELEASE

CommonSpaces: Building Bridges between University and the World of Work

The online platform, currently in beta version, offers collaborative learning environments and e-mentoring programmes to improve employability skills in the EU

Rome, London, Leiria, Brussels – 25 May 2016. The beta version of CommonSpaces was officially launched on 10 March 2016, during the Open Education Week. The launch followed an intense period of testing with a group of "pioneers" who pilot-tested the platform and helped the developers to improve the user interface and functionality.

CommonSpaces, the main output of a three-year Erasmus+ funded project, is an informal learning community that bridges the gap between university and the world of work, providing a social and interactive environment for knowledge building and self development.

The project team, coordinated by Sapienza University of Rome, includes the Polytechnic of Leiria (Portugal), Brightside (UK), AlfaBeta (Italy), Link (Italy) and MTC (Belgium).

Current features

CommonSpaces currently offers the opportunity to engage in learning projects promoted by universities, informal groups and businesses. The projects are organized as Communities of Practice (CoPs): groups of practitioners who work together for a specific knowledge-building objective in a particular domain. The "practice" mainly consists in retrieving Open Educational Resources, assessing their quality and finally adapting and remixing them to create Learning Paths to be used on or off the platform.

Future developments

Over the next few months, the partners will develop mentoring models to run alongside the existing features of the CommonSpaces platform. It is anticipated that mentoring will form a major component of the CommonSpaces project: mentors will be trained to work on a one-to-one basis with community members providing motivation support and guidance as they embark on their career journeys, thus ensuring a vibrant and active online learning environment.

Why CommonSpaces?

CommonSpaces is an ideal **lifelong learning solution** for university students and professionals as it provides open and informal communities in which members can actively and interactively learn useful skills to improve their career opportunities with the help of peers and more experienced colleagues. CommonSpaces is open to various stakeholders – from individuals to academic institutions, from professional associations to companies – that are interested in improving employability skills to contribute to the EU 2020 employment targets.