Professionalising VPL councillor : from the competence model to the digital Learning tool kit - think digital

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The Coronavirus pandemic has been a way for many professionals to improve their competences online. There is a variety of possibilities- from the team meeting gathering a small number of colleagues (Zoom meeting), to conference online (webinar) addressing a larger audience, through virtual training sessions trying to involve the trainees. The "Zoom competence" has become a "Coronavirus competence".

The digital skill is part of the 8 European key competences. According to the definition given by the European framework : "Digital competence involves the confident, critical and responsible use of, and engagement with, digital technologies for learning, at work, and for participation in society. It includes information and data literacy, communication and collaboration, media literacy, digital content creation (including programming), safety (including digital well-being and competences related to cybersecurity), intellectual property related questions and problem solving." (European Union & EC, Brussels, 2006).This key competence is acquired since youth and has become a main competence in our connected societies- 3.0 is history, we are working on the 4.0 society.

Therefore this is as main competence to be updated lifelong learning. Any professional must use and improve it. Learning strategies and pedagogical tools in Vocational Education and Training have to take it into account this digital dimension. Excel tables and PDF remain examples of resources but in any dynamic approach when you mean to build a toolkit with an access to many resources you have to design a digital learning toolkit. The digital learning toolkit of the PROVE combines the competence model (graphic representation of the competences) with a selection of resources (European and from the 5 EU countries of the Prove) in order for VPL professionals to find the relevant resources to improve their competence. This is therefore a way to match the competence model with the resources to be used after having self-assessed one's level of competence with the self-evaluation tool. There is a virtuous and circular learning process[1].

52% of Europe's workforce need reskilling due to changes in the job market (Digital Europe, Brussels, November 2020). The upcoming Pact for Skills can help lower this figure and bring us closer to a successful result in Europe, which is to leave only 32% workers in need of reskilling by 2025. Faced to an uncertain social and economic environment, digital learning is not an option but an imperative to build a sustainable professional future. The Prove DLTK is one illustration of the digital approach in the Education for Adult – a decent VPL councilor has to be digital in the 21st Century

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[1] Digital Learning ToolKit PROVE- https://www.prove-ltk.eu/