



Office Eco Consultant

KA2 Strategic partnership for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices

KA204 Strategic Partnership for adult education

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Intellectual Outputs 1: Comparative Profile Analysis of “Office ECO Consultant”

Key competences in the shape of knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to each context are fundamental for each individual in a knowledge-based society. In order to increase capacity and environmental awareness along with the ability to innovate and improve resource efficiency of the current workforce within European economies, specific skills, competences and knowledge must be improved. Specific topics that must be covered in order to properly contribute to promotion of resource and energy saving behaviour along with the Green Growth concepts include:

- Printer/Paper usage reduction;
- Lighting/Heating;
- Cooling/ Energy policies;
- Recycling/Reuse;
- Green procurement;
- Storage & disposal;
- Transportation;
- Meetings;
- Education, policy advocacy, networking and experience;
- Innovation;

It is clear that all those areas of expertise are crucial, however according to the data analysis, conducted by all project partners, the availability of tools and learning programs aimed to provide or strengthen the knowledge, skills and competences in this field is rather limited. The situation varies among the countries and in many cases some aforementioned topics are indeed covered rather thoroughly while others are discussed only briefly or not included into the training programs at all. It should also be noted that often there is no information online on whether the specific training program or learning course covers a selected topic or not (marked „*No information available*“).

Despite the fact, there are many training programs in this field, ranging from short 3-day long courses to bachelor study programs in higher education institutions and despite the fact that they do cover a wide variety of topics, the majority of them do not provide a full skills-set needed to implement the green business concept in the everyday life in the office. More than 90% of all 42 programs analysed, do not cover at least one of the previously distinguished core topics (or there is no information available, meaning that likely the topic is not included into the training/learning course). Also, in more than 50% of all selected cases there is almost no information regarding the content of the training program available online and such programs obviously do not provide open-access to the training materials – this can be noticed analysing the data from all 6 partner countries and it clearly reflects the need for improvement of the availability of ICT based training in this field. Moreover, according to the analysis, the topic neglected most often among all partner countries is „Transportation and Meetings“ – in 71% of cases there was no information available, and similar situation is seen regarding topics „Printer/Paper usage reduction“ and „Green procurement; Storage & disposal“ with 69% and 62% respectively. Oddly - the areas that take up the biggest part of the everyday office work are given the least attention. Surely, there are solutions for promotion of sustainability and efficient use of resources that many modern offices implement already, such as printing both-sides and choosing ICT based communication over mail, however it should be noted that there are many more ways to look into and thus those topics must be paid a lot more attention to. The situation among all partner countries is better when it comes to topic of „Lighting/Heating/Cooling/ Energy policies“ and „Recycling/Reuse“ – in more than 60% of analysed cases those subjects are clearly

included into the training/learning programs and in some cases are given the most attention to. The areas that are not as clearly related to simple everyday tasks in the office environment are surprisingly given the most attention, meaning that the topic „Education, policy advocacy, networking and experience“ is the most often taught one (it was covered in 77% of cases presented by partners).

The conducted research provides important information regarding the availability of opportunities of acquiring knowledge, skills and competences regarding green business concept and once again proves that the accessibility of training programs in this field often is very limited and that there is a lack of open-access learning resources online. Also it clear that most of the programs in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy implementation and waste reduction are mostly targeting global issues and focusing on the changes that should be made on the national or industrial level, while changes that could and must be made in everyday office work environment are rarely highlighted. In other words, the proposed concept for introduction of a new occupational profile of “Office ECO Consultant” is reasonable, perspective and well needed. During the further project implementation stages, the consortium will provide unified training system „Office ECO Consultant“. This will be achieved through collaboration, exchange of expertise as well as best practices among partners and stakeholders in the target sectors.

