BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO KNOWLEDGE4FOOT PROJECT

Project Aim
Knowledge4Foot project aims to contribute at fostering the excellence in training for footwear manufacturing by linking the three areas of Education, Research and Business in order to demonstrate good practices of cooperation and to bridge the worlds of education and work.

Project Objectives
- to set-up a new Knowledge Platform for transferring research and innovation for footwear manufacturing where the students will receive project-based training into a virtual environment by simulating all developing stages of the research projects and having as starting point the real identified needs of leather and footwear companies;
- to develop active collaboration among education, business community and research in order to assess the skills needs on innovation, research, development and technological transfer;
- to design a common curriculum and related e-learning content which incorporates creative thinking, problem solving approach and project-based learning for virtual internship in a Knowledge Platform for transferring research and innovation.

Target Groups
- Students enrolled in Higher Education
- Professionals involved in top and middle management in footwear companies: managers, designers, engineers and technicians

OUTPUT 1: Mapping the knowledge triangle for transferring research and innovation in footwear manufacturing

Aim of this study is:
- to give a deep overview of the labour market needs for highly qualified professionals in footwear manufacturing
- to identify the MIX of transversal and professional skills that can boost the transfer of novelties coming from research and innovation into product, processes and services in order to increase the competiveness of European footwear industry.

Topics:
The study has analysed how the project-based training is considered in existing Study Programmes of High Education (HE) students (EQF 5, 6 & 7) in partner countries in order to identify gaps and mismatches on skills & competences, and the needs of the labour market.
The project’s partners have elaborated National Reports (desk research & field research based on surveys). In total, 5 reports (GR, HR, PT, RO and ES) were released and integrated in a final report.

The DESK RESEARCH integrates the following results:
- Short overview of the national footwear sector
- Analysis of the existing training and/or study programmes
- Literature review on needs for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) in the footwear sector
- Inventory of Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) projects
- Inventory of good practices, projects and initiatives that demonstrate the link among universities, research centres and enterprises
- Definition of the K4F Knowledge Platform – functionality and tools
The FIELD RESEARCH integrates the results obtained in the surveys conducted by the project’s partners. Two types of questionnaires were developed: 1 for companies’ experts and 1 for HE and research centres experts.

108 experts from 108 companies
52 experts from 22 HE & Research Centers

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

OUTPUT 2: Training programme and e-learning content for transferring research and innovation
The Knowledge4Foot partners are now involved in creating a training program for developing skills and competencies in research, innovation and technological transfer applied to footwear manufacturing.

At the end of the course, the trainees should be able:
• to elaborate and apply the procedures and tools for a Research and Development Management System, including new product development, technology development, process development, technological transfer

UPCOMING EVENTS

• 3rd K4F partnership meeting in Porto, Portugal, 31st January- 1st February 2017
• Global Destination for Shoes & Accessories, GDS FAIR 2017 – Düsseldorf, Germany, 7th-9th February 2017
• 5th International Conference on Multifunctional, Hybrid and Nanomaterials, 6-10 March 2017 | Lisbon, Portugal
• The International Exhibition of Research, Innovation and Inventions PRO INVENT, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 21st – 24th March 2017
• Annual Conference of the Textile European Technology Platform will take place on 30-31 March 2017 in Brussels
• 12th eLearning and Software for Education Conference – eLSE 2017, Bucharest, Romania, 27th- 28th April 2017
• European Exhibition of Creativity and Innovation EUROINVENT 2017, Iasi, Romania, 25th – 27th May 2017
• 16th World Textile Conference AUTEX 2017, Corfu, Greece, 28th May- 1st June 2017
• 9th International Conference on Advanced Materials (ROCAM 2017) 12-14 July, 2017, Bucharest, Romania
• XVIII Adhesion and Adhesives Conference, 20-22 September 2017, Barcelona, Spain.
• 10th World Congress of Chemical Engineering, 1-5 October 2017, Barcelona, Spain

PARTNERS

The Knowledge4Foot partners include companies, HE & Research Centers and a mix of experts from various fields.