



WIDE - Wellbeing in Digital Education / Newsletter 1 / September 2022



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What is the WIDE Project?

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The WIDE project is a European Erasmus+ project which will run for 26 months. The project aims to create a new methodology for online and distance learning. A methodology where the mental and physical wellbeing of the students and teachers are not sacrificed in the process of distance learning but instead integrated as a core value of the learning process.

The partnership will develop a methodology based on the replies of a cross European survey as well as the experience of teachers and experts. A set of guidelines will be produced and presented in a professional and publicly accessible online platform and will then be tested thoroughly in all the partner countries.

Finally, based on the testing and evaluation, a set of policy recommendations will be presented to teachers and stakeholders in VET education institutions and policy makers across Europe.

What are we planning to do in the project?

The outcomes of the project will be divided into 5 results:



Result 1: Wellbeing in online education analysis

A survey will be conducted in all partner countries to find the critical issues and positive aspects of distance learning experienced by students, teachers and parents. Each partner will involve in its local context a target group of 90 people (30 for each target group).

The survey will be done online and be structured as a mix of closed and open questions. After data collection, we will analyze the data and produce a report, presenting the results in detail. The analysis report will be made available on the project website <http://wide-project.eu>



Result 2: The WIDE methodological framework

The WIDE-project aims to provide a strategic approach to an engaging way of learning which goes along with the care of the individuals who evolve in this learning process as they coexist in the online environment. It aims on creating hospitable e-spaces where people feel safe, are engaged and learn in the way that best fits their needs.

The WIDE strategic approach introduces the “Human Set Essentials” model which brings in two more necessary “sets” for the synchronous learning individual:

The first one is the Mindset i.e. the ways we support people to expand or develop a new mindset of how the acquired skills and tools could be optimally used to enhance learning and keep people in a healthy status.

The second one is the Heart-set, a warm approach to online presence, participation and relationships, which allows the various involved stakeholders to stay in connection and mutually take care of the online environment and themselves, co-shaping a safe space for effective learning.

Online introduction of metaphors, familiarity concepts, positive psychology, storytelling, are just some paths of the model. The sophisticated interweaving of all four sets (Toolset, Skillset, Mindset, Heart-set), guarantees an optimal understanding, an increased responsibility and an engaging implementation by all participants.



Result 3: Wellbeing guidelines for inclusive digital education in e-learning pathways

This result aims at providing strategies and suggestions for the design and development of an inclusive blended and digital learning environment, assuming wellbeing as a fundamental dimension in the design.

The guidelines are meant for VET professionals, teachers and trainers, VET managers, involved in the curricula design and development as well as in the learning/training offer's delivery.

The Guidelines will provide suggestions and hints on how to create inclusive learning environments in case of remote learning or blended learning from a pedagogical point of view. Approaches, techniques, and practical tools will be explored and case studies and success stories will be included.



Result 4: WIDE e-learning path

The e-learning course for teachers, trainers, educators is a resource to help upskilling professionals involved in the design and implementation of an inclusive online/blended learning environment.

Partners will base this result on the finding from Result 2 and Result 3 to include interested VET professionals, in flexible and focused training opportunities helpful to apply the WIDE methodological framework.

Once developed and made freely accessible from the project website in the different partners' national languages and English, the course will be tested by a pilot group composed by at least 10 teachers in each partner organisation and at least 50 teachers/trainers/educators from external and associated partners organizations.

Therefore, this testing phase foresees to involve about 120 testers. Their feedback will be collected through a questionnaire and interviews in order to improve the course.



Result 5: Policy recommendation for healthy online education

The Policy recommendation for healthy online education will collect contributions from each group of stakeholders, including key recommendations to overcome specific challenges experienced during the pilots.

The final Policy Paper will be presented during the final digital event and disseminate at local, national and European level even through the network of stakeholders at local level through a panel of digital channels. The draft of the document will include an introduction with:

- the project features
- the project's main outputs and deliverables
- objectives of the Policy paper and beneficiaries
- how the document was created (methodology)



What have we done so far?

The Consortium has been busy collecting data for the Result 1 Analysis. The data has now been collected and the next step is to prepare all the data for the analysis.

After the analysis has been done by the statistical department of the University of Salamanca, they will write a report on the finding that will help the consortium navigate the next step of the project: The WIDE methodological Framework.

C1 TEACHER Training and Partner meeting in Modena september 2022.

The consortium invited a group of specially selected teachers to join them for a C1 Teacher Training event in Modena in Italy from the 29th of August to the 2nd of September 2022. The training was carried out by Yannis Angelis, who is an expert in designing and conducting learning using online environments. The training event was a great experience, and gave a unique opportunity to learn more about the challenges and opportunities connected to teaching and learning using online tools.

Yannis has been outlining his theoretical model for successful online learning, and the project partners are using his knowledge and findings in creating the WIDE Methodology Framework. There have been a lot of funny moments, and long learning sessions, so it will be exciting to follow the project as it evolves in the future.

In between the C1 sessions the partnership have met to discuss the progress of the project, and we are now much more aware of the path lying ahead.

Thanks to Yannis and all the great people at the CIP who have made this event such a huge success.

I find the project interesting...where can I find out more about WIDE?

You can find out more about our activities and developments on our website: <https://wide-project.eu> or on the project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/projectwide>

In case you would like to get directly involved with the project as you see the potential and you could use its outcomes, don't hesitate to contact our partners locally, as we will be delivering events in 2022-23 in order to present all the materials which have been developed, where you are more than welcome.

Visit our partners page to see if we have a partner in your country:
<https://www.wide-project.eu/the-partners/>

Thanks to the funding received from the European Commission, under the ERASMUS+ programme, all project deliverables will be available free of charge to all interested parties.



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