

## **Proposed project summary (to be used for publishing)**

Project acronym: JOIN

The JOIN Project will provide consultancy and support for organisations/institutions that want to employ open source Learning Management Systems in all relevant topics ranging from the choice of a platform, didactics and organisational issues.

### Objectives:

Employing open source software for e-learning saves expenses for any organisation intending to provide e-learning. On the other hand, employing open source software poses a risk since it is difficult to measure the quality and the future availability of OS-LMS.

The JOIN project is targeted at practitioners and learners. It will provide effective support for the Open Source LMS community in Europe. This group is quite heterogeneous: it comprises teachers and trainers in schools, universities, public administration, as well as SMEs.

- Provision of interested organisations/institutions with a product / market overview of OS-LMS in Europe. This catalogue will be published online. JOIN will analyse and assess the quality and sustainability of the products in terms of standard conformity, support quality and the like.
- Analysis of current e-learning practices in the four target user groups: universities, schools, public administration and SMEs in order to prepare best practices.
- In France, Spain, Italy, and Germany support and information centres will be established. These centres will offer consultancy and support for the whole process of e-Learning, including all didactical and organisational questions, in the respective native languages. This kind of support is vital during the initial phase of any e-learning project. The competence centres will serve as a model for fostering e-learning in other European countries using OS-LMS
- JOIN will establish a webpresence addressing the special needs of four target groups and provide them with detailed guidelines and best practices in order to start, but also to sustain existing e-learning offers.

### Approach:

The basic problem about employing OS-LMS is the lack of information about their quality and sustainability. JOIN addresses key strategic issues in this field. They comprise

- Transfer of experience within the user communities of OS-LMS
- addressing recurring questions of a specific user group in workshops
- native language support
- train-the-trainers units
- open door days with briefings held every month in all four local support centers
- addressing recurring questions of e-learning in elaborated guidelines

The provision of these services and information packages will lead to a successful integration of e-learning. These packages will be disseminated in Europe through the support centres in four nations and a webpresence.

### Expected results:

The project's results will consist of

- packages of software, service and information for users of open source Learning Management Systems in European countries

- the establishment of a Special Interest Group comprising organisations of the four target groups universities, schools, SMEs and public administration
- the establishment and maintenance of a webpresence deployed for developing and moderating the Special Interest Group and to disseminate the results
- the project will establish an effective infrastructure providing information and support services
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