

REPORT OF THE MULTIPLIER EVENT

NAME OF THE EVENT: “TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON PASSIVHAUS AND WOODEN STRUCTURES”.

DATE OF THE EVENT: 15 JANUARY 2018 (18:30)

VENUE: ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS, ARCHITECTS AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS, SITUATED IN LUGO-GALICIA-SPAIN.

PARTNER INVOLVED: **FLC-Asturias** (Speaker on behalf of FLC-Asturias: **Luis Javier Alonso Méndez**. Training Manager of FLC-Asturias (Construction Labor Foundation of Asturias).

CONTEXT AND PROFILE OF ATTENDEES / PARTICIPANTS

On the 15th of January 2018 FLC-Asturias, represented by **Luis Javier Alonso Méndez**, actively participated in the “**Technical Conference on Passivhaus and Wooden Structures**” held in Lugo, approximately 230km away from our main headquarters in Ribera de Arriba. This conference was held within the framework of the Programme “Empleaverde” (Literal translation: “Employ Green”), co-funded by the European Social Fund. This pioneer project, implemented at national level, strives to boost employment, foster entrepreneurship and promote environmental protection by **qualifying** the professionals of the construction industry in the **new model of sustainable construction**.

FLC-Asturias decided to participate in this **free of charge professional conference** because it was particularly targeted at company owners, entrepreneurs, employees (mainly **middle management** and other skilled trade workers), staff of professional bodies and Vocational Training Centres, representatives of Employers’ Organisations, representatives of Trade Unions, trainers, trainees, consultants, experts and other freelance professionals in the **construction field**.

Our objective was to **disseminate** the **ConstructyVET Project** as a whole and particularly describe the **activities** related to **Intellectual Output 04** of the project among these **relevant professionals** and **important stakeholders**, outside of Asturias. Our organisation considered this event as an excellent opportunity to obtain the **attendees’ critical reflections** on the **appropriateness** of the **transversal training modules implemented** and **experimented** by FLC-Asturias in the **last phase of the project** and to especially hear their first-hand impressions on:

- The **methodology for combined evaluation** of learning outcomes employed in Intellectual Output 04.
- The **assessment methods** selected by FLC-Asturias for the planned learning outcomes.

- The **preliminary results** of the post-training and post-assessment surveys answered by the trainees who had thus far participated in our transversal training modules.
- The **forthcoming activities** programmed by FLC-Asturias in the framework of Intellectual Output 04.

MONITORING

- **Number of subscriptions:** 27
- **Number of attendees:** 14
- **Persons of the project involved:** Luis Javier Alonso Méndez, Sandra Alba García, Marta Hevia Fano and Marta Suárez Cumbreño.

GENERAL RESULTS

During the conference our organisation was able to gather an inestimable first-hand feedback on the adequacy of all the activities that we had carried out within Intellectual Output 04 until that moment and on the forthcoming actions that we were planning to implement in the following months. We can say that we used a “**focus group**” **method**, enabling this **given public** to actively participate and interact in a planned discussion and to share their opinion on the ConstructyVET Project as a whole and particularly on the **experimental phase** of the Project. The conference also proved to be an appropriate setting to foster the participants’ interest and support in following the **last phase of the ConstructyVET** and its possible impact on the companies and on the future **qualification** of the employees of the construction sector in **soft** and **transversal competences** such as conflict resolution, negotiation, developing emotional balance, etc.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE MULTIPLIER EVENT

- The main strength of this event is the fact that the **profile of the attendees** was closely related to the profile of the **target groups** addressed in the ConstructyVET Project. The **topics** of the **conference** were also related to the **qualification of professionals** in the **construction industry**. For these reasons the conference proved to be an ideal setting for the **dissemination** of the **experimental phase** of the ConstructyVET Project, as we have already described above.
- It would have been significant to achieve a more active participation on behalf of **decision-making, advisory** and **regulatory bodies** in **Education**.
- FLC-Asturias is aware that the active participation of some of the **end beneficiaries**, i.e. the trainees, of our transversal training modules would have been enlightening. Their attendance was not possible due to their tight work schedules.

- Due to time constraints, FLC-Asturias was not able to administer **questionnaires** to measure the participants' satisfaction and to collect their **written proposals** for the improvement of multiplier events for future projects.

GENERAL EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS

The participants recognised the worth of projects such as the ConstructyVET European Project because it strives to **qualify middle management employees**, such as worksite supervisors and team leaders, of the construction industry in **soft** and **transversal competences**, based on the previous identification of the companies' training needs in terms of knowledge, skills and competences.

The attendees shared their point of view with regard to the "**Model for Combined Evaluation**" employed within Intellectual Output 04. The majority of the participants supported the underlying assumption of the model: that **without cooperation there is no quality**. Therefore, they fully supported the idea that the coordination between all the actors related to training (for example, organizations / experts responsible for definitions of learning outcomes, training organizations and staff, assessing and certification bodies, learners / trainees, trainers, employers, etc.) is crucial. Yet, they also highlighted that the use of this model will entail many challenges because it is not always easy to achieve the joint cooperation of the main actors in the training field.

As for the **assessment methods** employed by FLC-Asturias in the experimental phase of the Project, most of the participants regarded these methods as appropriate, for example observation in simulated conditions during training, even though they considered that observation in real work conditions would probably be the most adequate way to observe how the learners have put into practice the knowledge, skills and competences acquired during the training phase. However, they also expressed that this assessment method is not always feasible because most of the **companies** are **reluctant** to have someone external to the company on the worksite especially due to strict workplace health and safety regulations and also because our presence could negatively affect the employees' productiveness.

Lastly the participants also gave us their feedback on the organisation of the transversal training modules undertaken thus far by FLC-Asturias in the experimental phase and especially con the methodology used (i.e. blended learning). The opinion of the attendees coincided with the results initially obtained through the post-training surveys answered by our trainees. They too expressed that face-to-face training is probably more effective than e-learning when it comes to acquiring competences related to resolving conflicts, negotiation and developing emotional balance, but that it is not always possible to attend classroom lessons due to the heavy work burdens and tight work schedules of the trainees.