

VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR FURNITURE BRANCH

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ABSTRACT

In the contribution there is described and introduced the new virtual educational programme under the address WWW e-furniture.info, where we can find the explanatory dictionary with the definitions of furniture terms and virtual multifunctional house with special rooms equipped by special pieces of furniture in connection database of national and European standards in Bulgarian language, English language, Slovak language, German language and Slovak language.

Key words: Virtual interactive educational portal, standards, directives dictionary.

INTRODUCTION

Complementary motivation for solving of the project is the current situation of European standards by manufacturers which is not satisfying in the Czech Republic as well as in other EU countries and the exploitation of the standards. The main reason for researching of the project is a need to increase the attractiveness of vocational education in furniture sector and to help furniture manufactures, furniture designers, furniture sell men and workers in design studies.

The developing of the VIRTUAL INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL PORTAL FOR FURNITURE BRANCH is developing in the programme Lifelong Learning Programme, the Sub-programme LEONARDO DA VINCI, in the action LEONARDO DA VINCI Transfer of innovations.

The portal is based on result from Leonardo Da Vinci project called Fashion School, website www.TEXTSITE.info.

Innovation in this project is represented by a unique e-learning programme (multi-media and internet guide) which was created in Leonardo da Vinci project called Fashion School. Transfer of these innovations is represented

by adapting and using the product developed for textile and clothing industry into different branch – furniture industry.

METHODS

The project is solved by the international team. The consortium of research team is composed from seven partners.

The main solver of the project is MENDEL UNIVERSITY IN BRNO, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Institute of Furniture, Design and Habitation.

The core technical resolver of the project is Textile Testing Institute, non-profit research institution with the branch of the responsibility of the technical solution.

The other associated partners are:

- The Cluster of Czech Furniture Manufactures cooperative;
- Technical university in Zvolen;
- IHD Institute of Wood Technology Dresden;
- Galway Mayo Institute of Technology;
- Standards institute in Bulgaria;

The project is focused on five main target groups within furniture branch:

- for: university students of furniture branches, students of vocational furniture schools of higher types, students of vocational furniture schools;
- for: university teachers, teachers of vocational furniture schools of higher types, teachers of vocational furniture schools, other pedagogues, (lectures) in schools of furniture branch;
- for: B2B, business to business;
- for: furniture producers, furniture manufactures;
- for: furniture sell men.

All target groups must deal with safety legislative and standards which are connected with specific terms in the furniture branch. Main result of the project – interactive educational internet portal for furniture branch with explanatory dictionary and e-learning module – will help to get an overview and to simplify understanding of specific terms and standards of furniture functionality requirements. Interactive Furniture Portal in a form of internet tool will help members of all target groups to better understand the standards and terms valid for furniture in partners' countries and on the EU level.

RESULTS

All defined target groups in some extent operate in international environment which is the reason for multilateral character of the project. Main outcomes of the project such as the Interactive educational portal in furniture branch and Explanatory dictionary

of the furniture terms with definitions of different furniture pieces, different furniture sets and other terms, in the same time in Bulgarian language, English language, Slovak language, Germany language and Czech language.

Now developed the interactive educational portal will contains the database of national Bulgarian, Germany, Ireland, Slovak, Czech and European directives, laws describes, testing and requirements standards which functional in Bulgarian language, English language, Slovak language, Germany language and Czech language.

The portal will contain so called multifunctional house with individual rooms determinate for the different specification (such as kitchen, office surgery ordination, children room) and these rooms will be equipped by different kinds of furniture which are characteristic for this type of rooms. User of portal will walk through virtual house and after marking individual pieces of furniture and sets of furniture, he will get the information about the marked piece of furniture, about its size, standards and demands connected with the marked of the pieces of furniture in the national language and English language after requirements in the other language of project by scrolling. On the picture 1 there is possible to see the web page of the portal. The enter to explanatory dictionary it can be seen on figure 2.

The indoor of virtual with the scrolling information about ergonomics of office chair is settled on the figure 3.



Fig. 1. Web page of the portal

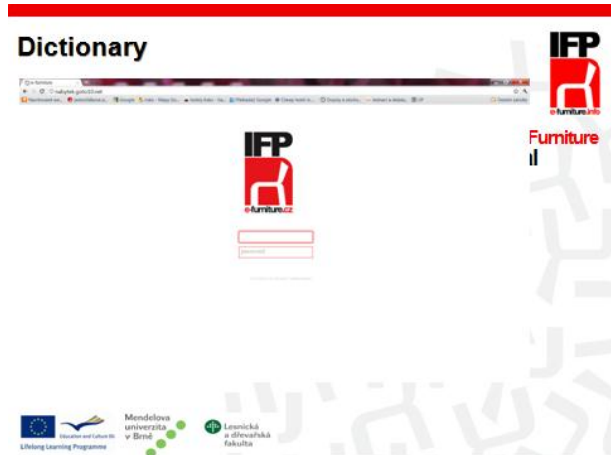


Fig. 2. Enter to dictionary

VIRTUAL HOUSE



Fig. 3. Virtual house office space with ergonomics information

E-learning module created in five language versions reflecting a composition of the consortium (English, Czech, Slovak, German and Bulgarian). This fact helps to improve next to vocational education also language education of all target groups.

User of portal will walk through the virtual house and after marking individual pieces of furniture and sets of furniture and he will get the information about the marked piece of furniture, about its size, standards and demands connected with the marked of the pieces of furniture in the national language and English language after requirements in the other language of project.

Plan of realization:

- In the first part the explanatory dictionary of the furniture terms was

developed and resourced documents for interactive portal;

- In the second part there are developing interactive furniture portal and in the same time the rooms in the virtual house are equipped by different pieces of furniture;
- In the third part the interactive portal will be introduced to students and the portal will be tested by furniture manufactures, students of vocational schools, university students, pedagogues, (lectures);
- In the fourth part after the repair which will come from the remarks of users during the valorization the interactive portal will be opened for public;

- The virtual furniture interactive educational portal will be possible to open under the address www.e-furniture.info from April 2012.

CONCLUSIONS

Outcomes of the project are:

- Interactive virtual portal developed in five language versions (English, Czech, Slovak, German and Bulgarian) with the databases of definitions and requirements, including national and international standards, with together with interactive graphic.

The main aim of the project is to improve the attractiveness of vocational education within the target groups. Project aim towards vocational education is to help members of target groups and interested public to understand core terms of furniture industry by using interactive and systematic internet portal. Project also wants to reinforce mutual trade exchange between partner countries by simplifying orientation on common EU market (especially with regard to national standards).

- E-learning module will improve the better communication among the business and other partners in each of the researching partners;
- E-learning module will improve and will do easier communication and easier understanding in the furniture branch in countries which are researching this project and in English and German speaking countries;
- E-learning module improves the better and easier possibility to get the requirements of different kinds of furniture and to compare them in each of the countries, which take part in the solution of the project.

The planned outcomes of the project are reinforcement of exploitation of European and national standards for furniture, gathering of their requirements together with safety directives valid for the furniture and presenting them in the attractive e-learning form in order to support the vocational education.