EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs

Directorate F : Innovation & Advanced Manufacturing

INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Title of the project: TRAIN-CE-FOOD

Coordinator: Znanstveno-raziskovalno združenje za umetnost, kulturne in izobraževalne programe in tehnologijo EPEKA, socialno podjetje

Number of the grant agreement: SI2.823699

A. OVERVIEW OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS/ WORK PROGRAMME

Please describe clearly and briefly following aspects concerning the activities undertaken (by the time of the submission of the present interim report) in the work programme

A.1 Aims and objectives of activities undertaken during the reported period (maximum 1 page)

Aim:
TRAIN-CE-FOOD's aim is acquiring innovative specialised competences for young people, by empowering them to make use of entrepreneurship and cooperative skillsets and mind-sets, which will enable them to create much more efficient cooperative solutions and business models in the field of CE and food supply chains via open online learning, face-to-face workshops, and in- depth remote coaching.
During the reporting period we have addressed the aim of the project. Firstly, we have gathered key data about the implementation environment and identified the opportunities for the project to achieve the greatest possible impact by filling existing gaps in education systems in partner countries (WP1). Based on this we have started designing curricula (WP2) and e-modules (WP3) to address the identified gaps.

Specific Objectives realised or in the process of finalisation in the reporting period :
1. Develop and design curricula for secondary and higher education level (Entrepreneurship Competence Framework will be used as a basis for both levels), raising awareness/knowledge.
Within WP2 we have started with the process of developing the planned curricula, which correspond to the identified needs in secondary schools and HEIs in partner countries and utilise the detected good practices.

2. Develop and design an open OER platform with 3 integrated modules, supported by an e-textbook to ensure that learners will acquire skills, competencies and knowledge – modules will be integrated in learning/teaching at the secondary and university levels.
Within WP3 we have started the development of the OER, created it's basic outline and are in the process of integrating it into the project's website.

3. Dissemination of TRAIN-CE-FOOD outcomes
The process of information and result dissemination has begun. We have established the project's visual identity, developed a webpage and opened social media accounts. All of the finished deliverables (WP1, D1.1, D1.2, D1.3) intended for public dissemination have been uploaded and shared with relevant stakeholders. An internal Dissemination & Communication Strategy has been prepared.

A.2 - Activities undertaken by the time of the submission of the present interim report (maximum 1 page and a half by workpackage)

WP1: State of the art analyses (M1-M5)
Deliverable 1.1: Analyses of competencies
This deliverable explored the knowledge and competences about food supply chains, (social) entrepreneurship and cooperatives in all the partner countries and mapped the knowledge and competency gaps. The target group in the research was secondary school students/university students, trainers/teachers/professors, other interested stakeholders, e.g. training centers, businesses etc., cooperatives in Slovenia, Austria, Malta, Cyprus, Croatia, and Spain.

Deliverable 1.2: A list of good practices
The second group of tasks in this WP was directed towards exploring and analysing existing practices in secondary schools and HEIs and choosing 3 good practices from each country. In the first stage MIITR prepared a template to enable the gathering of data on the practices.

Deliverable 1.3: State-of-the-art report

The report is the core deliverable in this WP. It provides insight into the legal framework of each country on local, regional and national levels, an overview of the methodological approach, descriptions of the educational curricula offered in partner countries country on the secondary and tertiary level, potential synergies with TRAIN-CE-FOOD and also with COOPilot and ECOOPE, and what gaps in the national system can TRAIN-CE-FOOD fulfil.

Realised results:324 participants in deliverable 1.1; 6 countries analysed in deliverable 1.3; 3 good practices gathered in each partner country (all together 18); State-of-the-art report published online; in the reporting period deliverable 1.3 was downloaded 12 times.

WP2: Curriculum and Knowledge Hub (M2 - M18)
On the basis of data gathered in WP1 we have begun with the development of the deliverables planned in WP2. These include the creation of the knowledge hub, which will gather information enabling and facilitating entrepreneurship and cooperative initiatives, and curricula for secondary and university levels.

Deliverable 2.1: Knowledge hub
The development of the Knowledge hub is in its first half and at this point we have produced an outline of its structure and key content areas based on results of WP1 (scientific and "grey" literature, standards and legislation (European and national), books, good practices, case studies, presentations, videos, software, methods, tools)

Deliverables 2.2 and 2.3: Curricula for HEI and secondary school students
In the reporting period these deliverables are in the final stage of development and the consortium is in the evaluation stage, which will be the basis of the final version. The curricula are based on the Entrepreneurship Competence Framework.

WP3: OER platform and e-modules (M1 - M18)
The deliverables in WP3 are in development and testing of versions; after the initial outline we have been developing the deliverables to better address the detected gaps in the national contexts of partners. At this point we are testing possible integration of the OER into the webpage and finding the optimal solution (projected finish date in M10), and developing the content of the e-modules (usable draft versions planned in M12).

WP4: Target groups engagement (M6 - M18)
In the reporting period we have just started with WP4 and are defining the objectives per target group and consolidating a database of target groups.

WP5: Dissemination and Communication (M1 - M18)
Dissemination activities begun in the first month of the project. We have prepared the project's visual identity, established social media profiles, opened the project website (http://traincefood.si/) and prepared an internal Dissemination & Communication Strategy. We have begun with the dissemination of deliverables in WP1, which are all available on the website.

Deliverable 5.1: Dissemination & Communication Strategy
The strategy defines communication objectives, key audiences and content for each audience, it outlines the project's visual identity, communication channels and products, outlines evaluation and monitoring, and roles and responsibilities of each partner.

Deliverable 5.2: TRAIN-CE-FOOD project website
The website communicates all key data about the project, its lifecycle and the consortium implementing it, and provides access to all public deliverables.

D5.1: Dissemination & Communication Strategy – not of public dissemination – link: https://epeka.si/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/D5.1-TRAIN-CE-FOOD-Communication-Dissemination-Plan-V6-2-1.docx

WP6: Project coordination
This task aims at ensuring that the project is running smoothly and on time, and that an equal level of information is maintained between all partners. An online workspace in Microsoft Teams was established and used for communication, coworking, developing deliverables and sharing files. In the reporting period we have prepared the following deliverables: D5.1: Online workspace, D6.2 Project Evaluation and Quality Plan, D6.3 Data Management Plan and D.6.4a: first internal evaluation report.

LINKS::
D6.2 Project Evaluation and Quality Plan – not of public dissemination –
https://epeka.si/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/D6.2-TRAIN-CE-FOOD-Project-Evaluation-and-Quality-Plan-.pdf
D6.3 Data Management Plan – not of public dissemination –
https://epeka.si/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/D6.3-TRAIN-CE-FOOD-GDPR.pdf
D6.4a first internal evaluation report – not of public dissemination –
https://epeka.si/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/D6.4a-TRAIN-CE-FOOD-Frst-internal-evaluation-report-.pdf

A.3 - Indicate changes from project activities as foreseen in your proposal and reasons why (by the time of the submission of the present interim report) (maximum 1 page)

Based on Internal Evaluation TRAIN-CE-FOOD February 2020- August 2020- A Quality Review and Evaluation , no deviations from project acitivties were perceived. However, partners were in general impacted by the Covid-19 issues, and need to put much more effort into the implementation of this proposal. Regarding the Covid-19 impact, 80 % of the partners believe that the work was impacted. This could be related to the fact that first WP carried out an in-depth field analysis within the countries. For partners it was difficult to obtained outputs from students, pupils, teachers, etc. as schools were closed down. However, partners need to put inside a lot of efforts and share their questionnaires in online versions to gather the required inputs.

Partners were also unable to carry out face-to-face meeting in April, as scheduled in the application form, due the lock-down in Europe. Thus, partners carried out on online project Kick-off meeting at the same dates and with the same agenda.

Financial issues per partner are gathered by EPEKA as well as overview of the dissemination (e.g. no. of likes, no. of comments, etc.).

A.4 - Results/outcomes (including deliverables) by the time of the submission of the present interim report (maximum 1 page)[1]

Within the monitoring period partners have finalized the scheduled activities, and finalised the following deliverables:

- D1.1: Analyses of competencies
- D1.2: A list of good practices
- D1.3: State-of-the-art report (6 countries; > 324 individuals involved) (students, professors, etc.)
- D5.1 Dissemination & Communication Strategy
- D5.2 TRAIN-CE-FOOD project website
- D6.1 Online workspace
- D6.2 Project Evaluation and Quality Plan
- D6.3 Data Management Plan
- D6.4 – Interim reports D.6.4a

[1] In case a deliverable is final (action plan/publication/ leaflet etc…) please attach it in the annex to the interim report

D1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are publicly available on the webpage. Links for D5.1, D6.2, 6.3 and 6.4a are provided in section A.2.

Outcomes of the first evaluation period (March – August 2020) can be summarized as follows:

- Partners finalized the WP1 and its deliverables. This means they have developed and translated competencies questionnaires, prepare online versions of these questionnaires, gathered information from the target groups and carried out national and overall analyses of competencies (D.1.1). Partners gathered over 300 inputs, and exceeded the number of inputs required in the application form.

- Partners carried out review of existing good practices in their countries, according to the template prepared by MIITR, considering at least three good practices, comprehending content, learning materials, learning methods, etc. and for each country a list of good practices was declared.

- All the information and data provided were merged into the State-of-the-art report, considering gaps and providing info for our future work.

- Dissemination and communication strategy – draft was provided by the Paragon Europe. Partners review it, provided comments, and a final version of Dissemination and communication strategy was uploaded in our internal area (MS Teams).

- TRAIN-CE-FOOD project website was developed and set. Now, partners are filling in all the information and preparing translations to national languages. Besides all the required social media pages were set as well.

- EPEKA provided a server for hosting a web page, and organized online workspace for the project within the MS Teams.

- MIITR prepare a project quality and evaluation plan – draft, sent it to partners and after comments a final version was prepared, and uploaded into our internal area.

- EPEKA also drafted Data management plan, and after comments it was uploaded into our internal area. We have given a special focus to the GDPR issues.

- A first internal report was prepared – Evaluation.

A.5 – Future activities for the rest of the project duration. Please also note any changes (expected variations) in activities from the initial proposal (maximum 1 page)

In the following months the main focus will be developing the curriculums for secondary school- and university-level students (WP2) which will later be implemented in e-modules (WP3). The curriculums will be integrating entrepreneurship and cooperative knowledge in the field of CE innovative food supply chain business models dedicated to the HEI and secondary school students, respectively. The content of the curriculums will be based on the identified knowledge gaps, presented in the State-of-the-Art report (WP1). WP2 leader remains University of Osijek (FAZOS).

Then, we will complete activities from WP3, which involves the development of the OER and 3 e-modules as well as a e-textbook. Until M10, the OER platform draft will be created by all partners and until M12 a draft for 3 e-modules and the e-textbook. e-Module 1 will be developed by MIITR and STRATECO, and will present the topic of circular economy and innovative business models. The content of e-Module 2 will be developed by

iED and will relate to entrepreneurships and cooperatives in circular economy. For e-Module 3 the responsible partners Permacultura Cantabria and FAZOS will develop content on creation of cooperative start-ups, using circular economy in food supply chains. Until M18 development of the online platform (including teaching materials, developed methodological guidelines, e-textbook), its testing and a final version will be executed. WP3 lead remains STRATECO.

As a next step, we will return to WP2 and develop the Knowledge Hub (KH) with an aim to establish an active link between the project and the users' community. FAZOS will define the goal that the KH will support and major challenges. Next, EPEKA will identify the groups needed to produce the change and determine outcomes participants will seek. Design and development will be performed by STRATECO and the implementation of KH by Paragon, Permacultura Cantabria, iED and MIITR. Lastly, EPEKA will carry out the measurements and reporting of results until M18.

Under WP4, Paragon and iED will first define the target groups and objectives for each target group. Then, the "train the trainer" training will be organized in Croatia targeting experts. Trainers will be selected among experts from various institutions (HEIs, secondary school, NGOs, SMEs, and partner institutions). The training for students will be possibly held as a summer school. Within 6 months prior to the training participants (trainers and trainees) will be selected. All partnering institutions will be involved in the selection process, as well as in preparation of students for the event (min. 2 hours). Trainings will be executed until M16. Next, Paragon will organize a workshop in Brussels with 80 participants until M15. At least 3 cooperatives/entrepreneur activities in the CE food related topic including students will be established by STRATECO, iED, Permacultura Cantabria, SSCT and FAZOS. Guidance/mentorship for students will be provided by those organizations as well. This will be implemented between M10-M18.

For WP5, Paragon is the leader in charge of communication and dissemination. Dissemination activities will encompass activities on speeding up knowledge transfer and building up competencies (e.g. implementation of developed e-modules and materials (WP2-WP4)) and other dissemination activities (event and publication management plan, analysis and impact assessment of all of the communication, etc.). Content management and social media management will be carried out by EPEKA and PARAGON through TRAIN-CE-FOOD social media channels (FB, IG, LN, Twitter, YT) and by all partners through their own communication channels. Public communication will be undertaken by all partners. A bi-annual newsletter will be issued, EU and national press releases and infographics about WP results posted on social media channels and webpage. Paragon will take care of publications of project documents. Final conference in Slovenia will be organized by EPEKA, SSGT and MIITR until M18.

In WP6, EPEKA and other partners will further undertake several activities with the goal of an effective technical, scientific, legal, financial and administrative coordination. Specifically, partner institutions will take care of quality, documentation & information management of project evaluation and quality plan, perform risk management and ethical compliance, organize project plenary meetings, manage administration and finance. Another interim report and final report will be delivered on M12 and M18, respectively.