New Erasmus+ strategic partnership will use digital technologies to improve mathematics learning

A Scottish voluntary organisation will lead a new, two-year European project. Learning Link Scotland will work with partners in four European countries to identify how teachers in all education sectors can use digital technologies to teach mathematics effectively.

The partners are Learning Link Scotland (Scotland), Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), LTA Solutions Ltd, (Northern Ireland), Vaasa Vocational Institute (Finland), the Centre for Teaching Resources, University College Copenhagen (Denmark) and the Swiss Federation for Adult Learning (Switzerland). The UK, Irish, Finnish and Danish partners are funded by Erasmus+. The Swiss partner receives funding from the Swiss national government.

The project partners will visit each other’s countries to study practice in schools, universities, vocational colleges and adult learning. They will then develop a series of resources to be published in August 2017. These resources will include guidance for teachers on how to use digital technologies to teach mathematics effectively, a training course and teaching resources. The project will culminate in a multinational conference to be held in Scotland in the summer of 2017.

Jackie Howie, lead officer of Learning Link Scotland, said, “We at Learning Link Scotland are delighted to be leading this project. We have a lot to contribute from Scotland and a lot to learn from our partners. We are particularly pleased that we are adopting a cross sectoral approach to teaching mathematics.”

Mark Prendergast, lecturer at Trinity College Dublin, said, “This is a very topical and timely study especially given the current international debate regarding the value of digital technologies in educational settings. Trinity College Dublin are particularly excited to collaborate with our European partners and to use this opportunity to develop best practice in mathematics education.”

Jill Brown, director of LTA Solutions Ltd, said, “With a growing emphasis on embedding new technologies into learning and teaching, LTA Solutions Ltd is pleased to explore in an international forum how teachers may use new technologies effectively to engage, inspire, develop deep learning, assess learning and evaluate impact in mathematics..”
Minna Kari, lecturer at Vaasa Vocational Institute, said, “We are happy to be involved in creating student driven and active teaching approaches that will ensure all students equal opportunities to develop their mathematics skills for the future with the help of digital technologies.”

Kirsten Søs Spahn, educational consultant at the Centre for Teaching Resources, University College Copenhagen, said, “Kirsten Søs Spahn, educational consultant at the Centre for Teaching Resources, said, “In Denmark we have a lot of students using technologies in maths, but some are using the technology as a ‘black box’, that is they don’t understand what they are doing. The discussion about the effect of the use of technology is ongoing in Denmark, and hopefully this project will enlighten possibilities that will show how the students can learn maths using the power of technology in inquiry-based learning.”

Cächila Märki, head of basic skills at the Swiss Federation for Adult Learning, said, “We at SVEB are very interested to improve the inclusion of digital technologies in adult numeracy curriculum and resources. We are looking forward to working with the European partners to further develop the learning and teaching of numeracy.”

For further information, please contact Jackie Howie at Learning Link Scotland at howie@learninglinkscotland.org.uk

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