Sharing Experiences: ICT, web 2.0, Web 3D for Mentoring. How to use and how to network in virtual communities

Workshop Overview:
This one and a half day workshop will cover the following:

Introduction to web 2.0
General presentation of tools and web 2.0 applications (state of the art overview)
Examples: Google Applications, Chats, IMs, Blogs, VoIP, Social Networks, Utube, Second Life and Open Simulator 3D.
Reviewing all aspects of web 2.0. applications on:
user friendliness, stability, group interactivity, resources required with the users, time spent in setup and maintaining communities, and most importantly: interactivity.
Best practice review and hands on training in community building and fostering – What do member associations or their partners, or any similar communities use at present?
Real Life Mentees and Mentors presenting a showcase on Virtual Mentoring on the spot
Hands on training for the participants
Working on core tools and applications to be used for Mentoring purpose in Womentor federation or its individual member associations.
Main issues of language, codes, communication and moderation in virtual communities

What will the training consist of?

The training will give an introduction to web 2.0, then focus on the tools already in use for community (peer group) communication and review their technical requirements. It includes practical examples and case studies from experiences in Mentoring programmes running for women in science, engineering and technology and in business. The training will be participative and practical , giving a full overview on the state of the art communication technology. A real life mentor-mentee relationship will be presenting their experience in mostly virtual communication during their mentoring relationship.
The group will give a try to most of the suitable applications and selected tools themselves to gain own hands on experience.

What are the learning outcomes from the workshop?

Learning outcomes from the workshop include:

- To get a full overview of ICT technologies and web 2.0 interactive tools.
- Greater use of interactive communication between partner countries across Europe using ICT for exchange of knowledge and best practice in mentoring programmes.
- lessons learned and best practice shared from other communities active in virtual coaching and mentoring

- Sharing hands on experience about starting up, running and growing a virtual mentoring programme for a national as well as an international community.

Objectives for the workshop?

- Experience and evaluate the presently most suitable web 2.0 applications for mentoring
- Use web 2.0/web3D applications to conduct trainings for staff or mentoring sessions who cannot be physically present in member/partner offices OR create a virtual office and forego a physical office altogether
- To actively encourage virtual mentoring methodology in mentoring for women in member associations as well as fruitful networking beyond.

How will it be relevant for adult learning?
Mentoring Programmes in an intercultural environment do depend on a large extent on their ability to communicate virtually. Face-to-face meetings in international partnerships require an enormous amount of money and time just to travel, so its highly favorable to make use of the fastly growing technological possibilities instead. To choose the right tooling for communication among a group of Mentors or in Mentoring relationships is crucial for its long term success. What are the best applications to use in a diverging environment, what will be easily accepted by all members of a Mentoring community? Social networks, as well as the Mentors involved are often employed or working in a voluntary capacity with no prior training or qualifications on ICT or Communication Technology, nor on the code and conduct of virtual communities. Adults with a lower passion for new media mostly perceive it as a „young people only" way of communication, whereas the younger users – mostly mentees - may find it hard to accept a virtual group also does inflict common obligations and binding commitments.
The success of a Virtual Mentoring community depends on its ability to actively involve Mentors as well as Mentees. It does encourage both groups to look beyond the communication codes of their own peer group, crossing language and social barriers. The modern communication technologies indeed require a permanent process of learning by doing for adults, means: getting acquainted to new tools in a daily changing communication environment.

How would this workshop be relevant and benefit the partnership?
The workshop may stimulate further partners' interests in the field of mentoring and women and provide new ideas for future collaborative projects across Europe in the area of mentoring and women. It will enable the partners to review their specific ITC capabilities to network between members of the federation as well as other associations in Mentoring. It may also encourage partners to implement virtual mentoring into their local mentoring communities, as far as feasible for the target groups.

Tasks, roles and participation of the partners in the workshop?
dib e.V. will be responsible for the preparation of the workshop. Invite a Mentor-Mentee reference with a viable experience in using interactive technology for their mentoring relationship. Provide training facilities. Partners will be responsible for disseminating the workshop in the host country to ensure that

others who are interested in this topic could benefit from the opportunity to attend using their web 2.0 facilities. Partners will also take an active role as participants in the workshop, distributing their own experiences, foster a sustainable networking community in Mentoring virtually and provide a rollout to their counties wherever such seems feasible.

How learners and/or relevant staff will be involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of workshop activities?
Women in technology will prepare the workshop to give a full overview of applications and their best practice at present. A real Mentoring couple will present their own experience and discuss with the participants.
All participants will evaluate the workshop on a practical level - focused on how they will implement the information learned and apply it to any future exchange of experience, a practical use of communication facilities or transfer the training to their organization.

How can we evaluate the success of the workshop?
Participants will be evaluating the methods presented on
1) General understanding of tools and apps in web 2.0 in peer group communication
2) The participants will be working out which are the tools and applications they will further evaluate or directly use for their exchange of experience. Networking activities can be measured as well as sustainability of networking facilities by evaluating the acceptance by initial users and growth of the Mentoring group.
3) Evaluation long term: will show whether and to which extent member countries can implement ICT tools and applications into their countries´ Mentoring Process and Mentoring relationship

How will the other organisations benefit from the planned dissemination and exploitation activities?
Partner organizations will benefit gaining hands on experience in virtual networking and directly be able to apply the methods useful for them. It leads to a better knowledge sharing and networking as an active and creative virtual community. Virtual activities may overcome constraints to meet regularly, as costly and time consuming travels may be substitutable to a wide extent.
This could lead to attract a wider community of associations and individuals, all active in Mentoring and future collaborative work/projects being developed.

How is this activity compatible with Grundtvig objectives?
This workshop directly helps with objective (b) 'to help provide adults with pathways to improving their knowledge and competences' through improving participants (predominantly mentoring co-ordinators) competences and knowledge in important field of ICT and web 2.0 applications for social communities in Coaching and Mentoring. The workshop provides a profound background knowledge and hands on experience.
Operational objectives met:
The workshop improves the quality and to increases the volume of co-operation between

organisations involved in adult education throughout Europe. It provides participants with a good understanding of tools to use and how to facilitate them for an international co-operation.

The workshop facilitates the development of innovative practices in adult education and their transfer, including from one participating country to another. It will include a Mentoring team giving insights into their distant mentoring relationship based on web 2.0, encouraging others to transfer such concepts. To support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning, building sustainable and creative communities on Mentoring for Women.