NEWSLETTER

GEBOL – get European Business Online edition 1 / 2 2012

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The Gebol-Project – cooperation between school and business

By Katerina Nevralova CZ ■

"The Gebol Project is a pan-european educational project that aims to integrate vocational and educational training (VET) and business", says Katerina Nevralova from Euroface Consulting s.r.o., the head of the Gebol project. The Gebol-project is a transfer of innovation project (TOI) fundet with support by the European Commission. *What does the GEBOL mean?* **GEBOL** is an abbrevation for **Getting European Business Online.** The concept was transfered from Google's UK "Getting British Business On-line" and The ITQ national vocational qualification – from the UK sector skills council (SSC), eskills referenced to EQF.

The project has several goals:
1. To increase the number of businesses in the partner countries that can set up and manage their own web sites.
2. To promote ECVET compliant qualifications in the skills of setting up and maintaining a business web site.
3. To enable students to learn in real business contexts

The aim of the project is to get businesses web sites, especially small and micro-businesses that have no website and do not know how to go about getting and maintaining one. In order to do this we get students to build the web site as part of their IT learning, for example, as a practical context for work experience. For this they can get credit towards a qualification referenced to the European Qualifications Framework EQF.

What does GEBOL offer to small and medium enterprise?

@ Opportunity for free web presentation
@ Contact with the lastest development in promotion and communication
@ Using legal and free software for building own presentation

We will make and present a collection of students websites prepared within the project (UK, NL, CZ, DE, RO, BG, ES). The students that successfully present their IT skills by development the company website will get an INGOT certificate referenced to the European Qualifications Framework.

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The GEBOL philosophy is to provide a practical example of competence based assessment in a realistic context. Both the learner and their customer benefit and so does society. The assessment details are based on the UK Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) that is referenced to the European Qualifications Framework.

The assessment criteria are competence based, and designed to enable self and peer assessment to support personalised learning and learning how to learn. Competence is assessed locally in the school, college or training centre and subject to independent verification.

get european business online with gebol

We want to encourage learning that is motivating by virtue of producing useful and practical outcomes. We encourage the use of open systems that are freely and legally available from the internet and learning how to exploit them for the benefit of all. We don't force anyone to use any particular technologies but we highlight the value of learning to use free resources because this maximises inclusion and promotes independence.

Accredited qualifications provide a focus to ensure that there is recognition of achievements and that the learning element in the activities has appropriate emphasis. They will:

motivate learners through formal recognition of their achievements.

Provide practical support for inclusion

Improve support and rewards for progress, irrespective of age

Improve the balance in emphasis on skills, knowledge and process

Relate directly to work place activities

Provide support for transparency of qualifications through reference to the European Qualifications Framework.

The GEBOL-Kickoff-Meeting was held in Rotterdam, NL. Also present was the national National Agency for European Educational Programmes (NAEP) represented by Mrs. Vladana Smotlachova and Mr. Jan Slavicek.

NAEP
Národní agentura pro evropské vzdělávací programy

About assessment

[by Ian Lynch, TLM]

The Gebol – Project is also about certification and assessment based on learners outcomes. It is a a fundamental part of the project that any participant – student and employee of the participating SME – may have the compentence in creating and managing an online-website to be certified. The assessement and certification process is based on the ITQ (see http://www.theingots.org)

So what is competence based assessment? It is derived from vocational learning where assessment is done in the place of work. People steeped in school culture forget that assessment goes on all the time in many different forms outside schools. Sitting down and doing an exam is actually a minority form of assessment. Appraisal, interviews, reviews are all common forms of assessment. The chief difference between these and academic exams is that by enlarge academic exams are trying to rank order those being assessed to select them for higher or further education whereas many of the other forms of assessment are concerned with the competence of an individual to do something.

Why do we not use more of this competence based assessment in schools? To an extent, we do. The English National Curriculum has attainment targets that are levelled statements of competence and matching performance to those statements is effectively a competence based assessment regime. However, a lot of the teaching methods are still taken from the final written exam era. The best way to determine competence is to match the statements in context. Some might well argue that it is the only valid means of doing so.

So writing an essay about using a computer or doing simulations on a computer is not the same as doing a real task for a purpose on a computer.

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Get European Business Online

http://www.gebol.org

GEBOL ONLINE [powered by Wordpress, free and opensource content management]

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The learners outcomes – engineering (CZ)

Posted on September 28, 2012 by nevralova | Rubrika: News

Assignment

The client hasn´t got a web site.

The client´s requirements

The client hasn´t any special requirements. The client requires a website development based on prepared data.

The client asked the student to prepare a draft and then discuss it. My proposal is to describe the services provided, elaborate information about previous projects and add the contact details.

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GEBOL - New aspects of modern learning methods

New aspects of modern learning methods used in Gebol-Project

[by Andy Stoycheff, Adam Smith Academy, Sofia] ■ Andy Stoycheff is Director of the National Training Center and the Adam Smith College of Management. The College is one of the partner in the GEBOL-Project.

Adam Smith is going tactile. In case you wonder what that means, you need to visit the business school in Sofia and plunge in experiencing one of the open demo sessions which will put you for a short while in a simulated learning process. A cool new classroom design with different learning zones, and several teachers working with the same group at the same time, are just a couple of the new approaches used by the school to change the traditional learning mix (listen-see) into a more efficient one (listen-see-invent-discuss-do-feel). "Human mind is a multi-channel recording device which also stores information on how you feel during learning. Later, when you need to recall what you've learned, it is much easier for the mind to release the information if it has been accompanied by pleasant feelings.". We will show within the GEBOL-Project how teachers and students may take benefit of this new learning area.
An in-house developed board game is taking study of Finance and Accounting subjects to new grounds. A large vinyl sheet is being rolled out right on the classroom floor and students are provided with game money. They are learning that balance sheets, profit and loss accounts and cash flow statements are a living and interconnected structures which are not mere recording formats, but dispaly valuable business information. By following tutor's instructions or playing with random business operations, students find out that *touching the money and moving it across the printed fields is not only* more fun, but also more effficient use of their time at school. Professors at Adam Smith have tried to measure this eficiency and say that one hour of gameplay is equivalent to about 7-8 hours of classic classroom lectures.*en these and academic exams is*

This is very much what the GEBOL project is about - putting students in real life scenarios where they need to interact with a client to produce a web site. No two sites are alike, as no two businesses are. And the process requires much more than just the technical ICT skills, which they learn in their schools - it calls upon communication skills, team work, delegation of authority, keeping work records, presenting and evaluating results.

For more info: send an E-mail to andy@adamsmith.bg

GEBOL.Resources for students and SME

Gebol – it's alsp about free and opensource software for SMEs

The Gebol-Project aims to use in general for any website project free and open source software (see also for definition: http://opensource.wikipedia.org).

"The Gebol-Project has on its online platform a large repository of free and opensource software. The use of FOSS is in general free of any fee or licences restrictions limiting copying. Nevertheless, any user of FOSS should be aware of the fact that the software is written by thousands and thousands of professional and enthousiastic people around the world. The developers, translaters, GUI-designers, testing people – all of them are creating software to be freely used by anybody who likes it. Giving them response and a donation would be great! It will help to continue the development of fantastic software like Firefox, Linux, BSD, Libreoffice, Apache, Joomla and many other useful software applications. BTW: free and opensource Software is business-ready: solutions for ERP, CRM, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE, DATAMINING, IT-SECURITY or CLOUD-Computing are also available as community editions or on an extendend professional version. Opensource really meets customer requirements, especially those of SMEs/SMIs" [Bernhard Mommenthal, Opensaar e.V., a non-profit organisation promoting the use of F*LOSS.]

[Opensaar e.V. Promoting GEBOL Project at IT-DAY in Germany, Saarbrücken]

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GEBOL.Projects online

One of the main points of Gebol-Project is cooperation between schools and businesses. We recommend the use of free and open source resources for creating web sites and gaining certification. Technically speaking, businesses might use free and opensource software (see short view, right) to setup a website, creating a unique design, manipulating pictures and so on. Assessment and the certification both for students and employees is based on a generic ITQ assessement method (see also http://www.theingots.org).
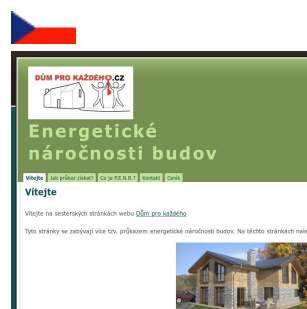
A short view of the projects actually ongoing within GEBOL-Project:

A short description: This is a complete new project with design, concept and layout by the students. The process is ongoing.

A short description: In this project, the students will optimize an existing website with an eShop-Management-System for products and services of EZ.

A short description: This is a project on an existing but old-fashioned website. The students are about to change design and layout.

A short description: This is a google site based on google website generator. Complete new concept and design by the students.

A short description: This is a complete new project for a non-profit organisation, design, concept and layout by the students. The process is ongoing.

A short description: In this project, the students will deliver the concept and full realisation of PIB Online, a non-profit local citizen movement

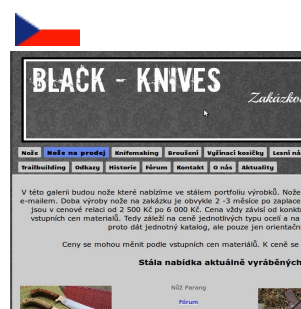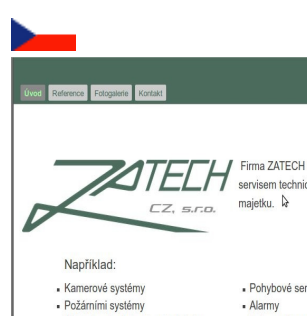## Gebol.Students

Students working at Zatech project:

A very important part of the GEBOL Project is working together and using methods and tools of collaborative working. Starting with a conceptional design of the customer requirements, the students have to assure many steps in developing the website and get it really "online". At this point, basic knowledge of project management is important. Talk to the customer, describe the project in a professional way, keep in contact with the customer, manage changes, check the latest steps that have been made, program next steps and DO IT! Even a small website project might very quickly become a "big project" with a lot of things to be done.

Gebol.Links

A short view on F*LOSS:

Office: Libreoffice for Writing – Calculating – Presentation – Design
http://www.libreoffice.org
http://www.openoffice.org

Content Systems:
http://www.impresspages.org/
http://www.google.com/sites
http://www.joomla.org
http://www.drupal.org

Graphics:
GIMP, Inkscape,
http://www.gimp.org
http://inkscape.org/

Scribus DTP:
Http://www.scribus.net

Browser for Internet:
http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/
http://www.opera.com/
http://www.google.com

For students/schools:
http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page
http://www.wikiversity.org/
http://www.osef.org/
http://www.edubuntu.org

FFII Free information infrastructure:
http://www.ffii.org/

Global repositories:
Sourceforge
http://eos.osbf.eu/
http://sourceforge.net/
http://www.codeplex.com/

Organisations:
Linux.org; Free software foundation
http://www.linux.org/
http://www.fsf.org
http://www.apache.org/

Business.ready

http://www.openerp.com
http://www.openbravo.com
http://www.sugar.com
http://www.vtiger.com
http://www.project-open.com
http://www.talend.com
http://www.pentaho.com
http://www.otrs.com
http://www.alfresco.com
http://www.mysql.com

Gebol.Award

[by Katerina Nevralova]

One of the ideas of the Gebol-Project is to recognise the results of the students work.

We think that for the work they do the students should get a price or – let me say – should get a reward. We decided to leave it to the partner country to find an appropriate solution. In the end, we expect to have some very good and even distinguished work. We are currently looking for sponsors who to contribute to this project. In the next edition of our newsletter, the partner countries will present their ideas for the "GEBOL-AWARD".

GEBOL.People

Katerina Nevralova: manager and counsellor for the application of ICT in education, leader of several national projects, coordinator of the GEBOL project.

Ian Lynch: Ian Lynch is Chief Assessor at TLM. He has taught in several schools including the first of the UK flagship technology colleges. He has led school inspection teams and is an assessor of the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers.

Manfred Reiter:
Manfred is Headteacher in professional schools in Germany and Brasil. INGOTs Assessor Trainer, Pedagogical advisor in several Comenius and Leonardo Projects, founded by the EU. Manfred is an educational professional with more than 30 years of experience.

GEBOL.DIDACTA

[by Manfred Reiter, Germany]
Gebol Project was presented at DIDACTA, the most important educational fair and exhibition in Hannover. At Didacta, more than 875 exhibitors, mostly from european countries, presented educational methods, learning materials, educational software, certification trials, or eLearning software. 80.000 visitors came in 2012 to see the latest trends in learning.

GEBOL.HANDBOOK

[by Ian Lynch, TLM, UK]
One of the outcomes of the Gebol Project is a handbook for teachers, assessors and learners. The handbook is a practical guide to work experience. In this guide, one can find a generic description of assessment units for qualifications in open systems. From Bronze to Silver and Gold, any student can achieve appropriate certification within the GEBOL Project. The evidence of the learner achieving a unit in GEBOL will come directly from the website or sites they produce.
The whole process of assessment, project outcomes and certification is maintained on an educational (eLearning) online-platform. See http://www.theingots.org

GEBOL-MEETING IN FRYDEK-MYSTEK, CZ

The GEBOL-Contacts in the different countries:

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