NEWSLETTER 1

A lack of workplace experience and the related skills and competences is one of the factors contributing to the "skills gap" in the EU today. While 5.6 million young people in the EU suffer the consequences of unemployment, 36% of employers' report that they struggle to find new recruits with the skills they need. Something is clearly wrong. The need to identify, adapt and adopt practices, which can tackle this skills gap, is urgent. This lack is very notable in the textile sector where companies require more technical staff, with up-dated skills, to use and manipulate very high technic machines and equipment, for textile manufacturing processes.

With this labor market mismatch, five institutions from Austria (BEST), Spain (AITEX, ANTECUIR and UPV) and Portugal (CITEVE), created the LEARNINGTEX project. After an evaluation of the textile sector in each partner's country and the results analysis, companies identified two weak aspects: woven fabrics and new quality control processes. Europe's textile companies can only compete in the world market by quality products and generating added-value products. Price competition against third countries is almost impossible. The only way is to compete with quality and design against low cost and poor quality products manufactured in emerging countries out of Europe.

LEARNINGTEX project started at 01/10/2016, has a two year duration and its first transnational meeting took place in Alcoy - Spain on the 18th and 19th of October 2016. The project aims to develop a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) based on OER (Open Educational Resources) about advanced technologies for textile quality control, not only for textile-outdated employees but also for unexperienced workers who have just finished their studies. The course will be oriented to textile employees and students interested in update knowledge about woven fabrics, machinery and the application of new technologies to improve quality control processes and reduce costs. The project will also improve labor hiring in the textile sector, especially in countries with low employment rates like Portugal and Spain, providing companies with high skilled workers to compete against third countries.

PARTNERSHIP: