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European Footwear Confederation – CEC (Belgium)



Footwear Technology Center of La Rioja - CTCR (Spain)



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DigitalFABLAB

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www.digitalfablab.eu



DigitalFABLAB - Footwear virtual learning by doing

Background and Project Description

In 2019, the European Footwear industry employed more than 278 000 people in more than 21 000 companies. European footwear companies are mainly SMEs and their development strategies are based on high-quality products, craftsmanship, flexibility, product differentiation and added-value. Being a manufacturing-intensive industry, know-how and skills are central to its global success. Currently, about 35% of the workforce is above 50 years old, making it a necessity to attract motivated and qualified young talents. In parallel, Covid-19 has had a profound and long-lasting impact on Vocational Education & Training (VET) provision. New, innovative VET practices must be taken up to attract new professionals, reduce the skills gap between Education and Work, and adapt to a highly digitalized world.

By simulating real-world experiences in a fully digital FabLab, the project will build on latest technologies to develop learning-by-doing tools and teaching material that will offer a stimulating experience to students and help them acquire the right skills to produce quality footwear from anywhere in Europe.

Objectives

- Create a free, entirely digital FabLab using Augmented Reality to teach and learn practical footwear manufacturing skills.
- Elaborate a joint international digital course, certified at National level and recognised at EU level for the development of practical skills in footwear manufacturing.
- Train VET teachers, trainers and coaches on how to implement digital learning-by-doing strategies to guarantee that such tools are well-understood and blended into learning programmes to their full capacity.
- Establish a network of European VET providers committed to delivering the most advanced digital practical training in footwear manufacturing.

Expected Outcomes

- A virtual Shoe Fab Lab using Augmented Reality
- A course for teachers on how to develop innovative and attractive content in AR
- A joint international learning-by-doing course using Augmented Reality tools.
- A common methodology course for teachers /trainers on how to teach using tools based on Augmented Reality.

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