



How to manufacture footwear thanks to augmented reality!

On the 28th of February 2023, the Erasmus+ Digital FabLab partners met in Krakow to report on the project progresses. This meeting gave them the opportunity to share more about the latest results of this initiative aimed at upgrading VET in the footwear sector and allowed them to move forward and focus on the upcoming steps.

The virtual and digital Shoe Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab), an online tool providing e-learning solutions and training for actors involved in the shoemaking industry is now ready. This means that students and workers from all around Europe will now be able to learn from a distance, something very useful and interesting from them and companies, in particular when they do not have the opportunity to practice on a factory or on a physical training centre. This is because the Digital FabLab integrates high-resolution images of the machines or other relevant equipment for the different manufacturing processes included in a training curriculum. The FabLab resembles a platform demonstrating equipment and machines that are used in the shoe industry, which also makes it more attractive to students, who can experience online challenges like on videogames.

The contents developed by the consortium represent eleven training units, each divided into two or three lessons, covering different topics from the design to the marketing of footwear, such as the principles of pattern making, the cutting department or production processes. These lessons have been created in such a way that the images presented integrate augmented reality (AR) elements. The principle is simple, and in order to have access to information, trainees will have to scan the images with their phones or tablets and then follow the instructions given on their screens. By using augmented reality technologies in VET studies, the partners are fully embracing the “learning-by-doing” methodology that is at the centre of the project objective.

The consortium is very satisfied with these latest project results, and is now focusing on the last phase of the project, namely the elaboration of a common methodology for training, teaching, and coaching based on augmented reality. The objective of this next phase is to prepare trainers, teachers, and coaches to become facilitators in the joint international course for digital “Learning-by-doing” on Footwear manufacturing, and in general for all the training itineraries based on augmented reality (AR).

If your company or VET centre is interested in getting involved with the Erasmus+ Digital Fab Lab project, you can contact any of the partners to find out the opportunities of being an active actor. You can also follow the progress of the Erasmus+ Digital Fab Lab project on our [website](#).



Confédération Européenne de l'Industrie de la Chaussure
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