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upgrade² europe

upgrade2europe project newsletter



Foreword

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The aim of our **upgrade2europe project** is to support SMEs, SMOs and educational actors on their path towards international success. This is not something that can be achieved in a blink of an eye, but requires careful strategic planning, and consciously taken steps on this amazing journey.

Our upgrade2europe team has been working hard to develop **tools and materials that will be supporting you to achieve your international goals** the best possible way.

In this issue of our upgrade2europe Newsletter, we are happy to tell you all of the accomplishments we are so proud of!

Read more on the next pages, and thank you for being with us!



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SO NICE TO SEE YOU!

TRANSNATIONAL PARTNER MEETINGS GETTING US
CLOSER TO OUR GOALS AND EACH OTHER

'THE STRENGTH OF A TEAM IS EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER. THE STRENGTH OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM.' (PHIL JACKSON)

After conducting the project's kick-off meeting online, project partners had the chance to meet finally in person in Larnaka, Cyprus during October 2021 and had their transnational partner meeting in Tallin, Estonia in May, 2022.

Partners made the most out of the time at disposal to get acquainted with the latest versions of the project results: the **Process Model**, the **Curriculum**, the **Handbook**, the **Learning videos**, the **Self-Assessment Tool** and the **email course**. The project products are almost finalized and ready to be tested by the target group members.

The methodology of the forthcoming **internal and external testing sessions** have also been discussed in detail, just as the dissemination of project results and quality management topics. And what are the next steps? We will have a **lots of personal engagements with our target groups, testing activities, national workshops** and many many more!

ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

The impact of the project can be measured by the number of people using the project results. For this reason, **Round-table discussions** have been conducted in partner countries, during which the beta versions of the project products were presented to the participants with the aim of ensuring the broad applicability of the contents, gathering feedback and discussing suggestions for changes.



5 COUNTRIES, 43 PARTICIPANTS

The round-table events have been organised in 5 European countries: Germany, Bulgaria, Italy, Cyprus and Hungary and attracted altogether 43 participants.



MULTIPLIED RESULTS

Apart from direct target group members (SMOs, SMEs and training providers), multiplier networks and organisations also attended the events, such as EQF, representatives of ministries, chambers of commerce and other business support structures, that can effectively multiply the project results towards their clients and members, thus increasing the project's impact.





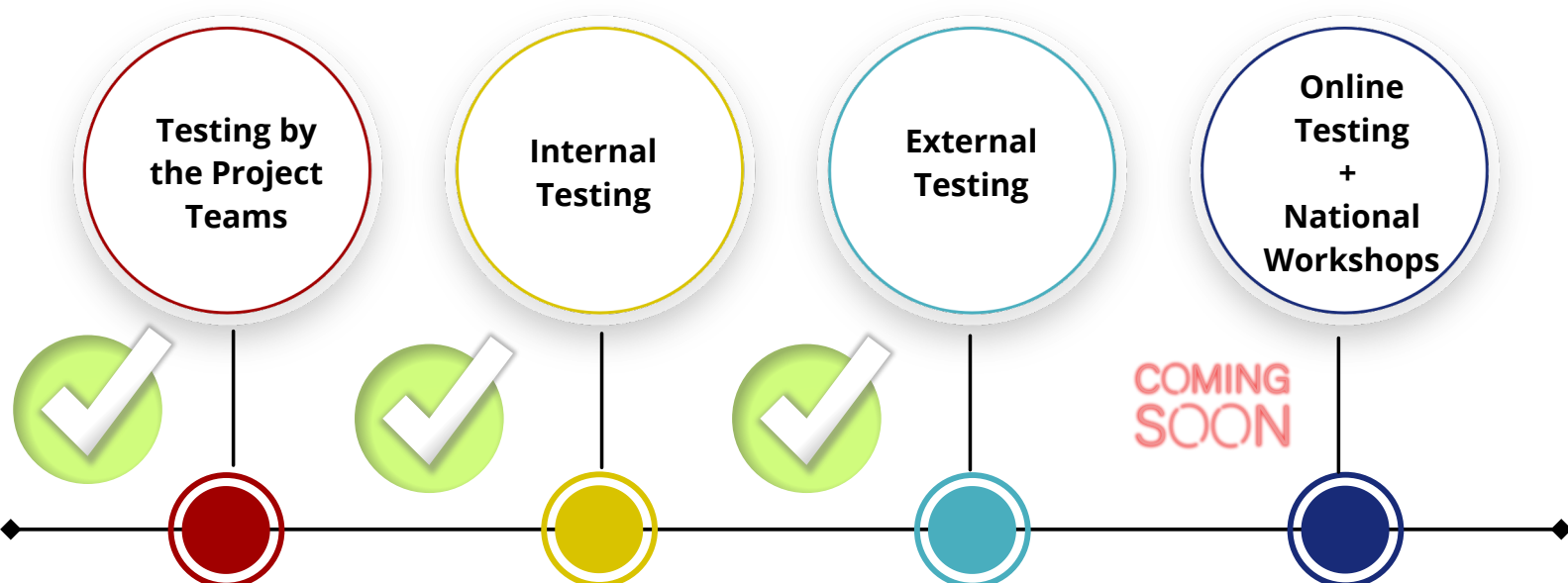
upgrade2europe TESTING ON!

Quality above all

In order to ensure that the developed products are perfectly adjusted to our target groups' needs, various internal and external testing activities have been carried out. All testing activities had the same aim: **to gather feedback on the applicability, usability and quality of the developed products and to fine-tune them based on the results.**



Testing Activities



INTERNAL TESTING

Internal testing happened at two levels:

1. Project partners met in Larnaca, Cyprus, and tested the first versions of the developed products, including the Process Model, the upgrade2europa Curriculum, the Handbook, the videos and the Self-Assessment Tools
2. During the 2 months period, an internal testing activity has been conducted at each project partner's own organisation, involving at least three colleagues, who are not part of the project team, to gather their feedback and ideas for further improvements.

'TESTING A PRODUCT IS A LEARNING PROCESS.' - BRIAN MARICK



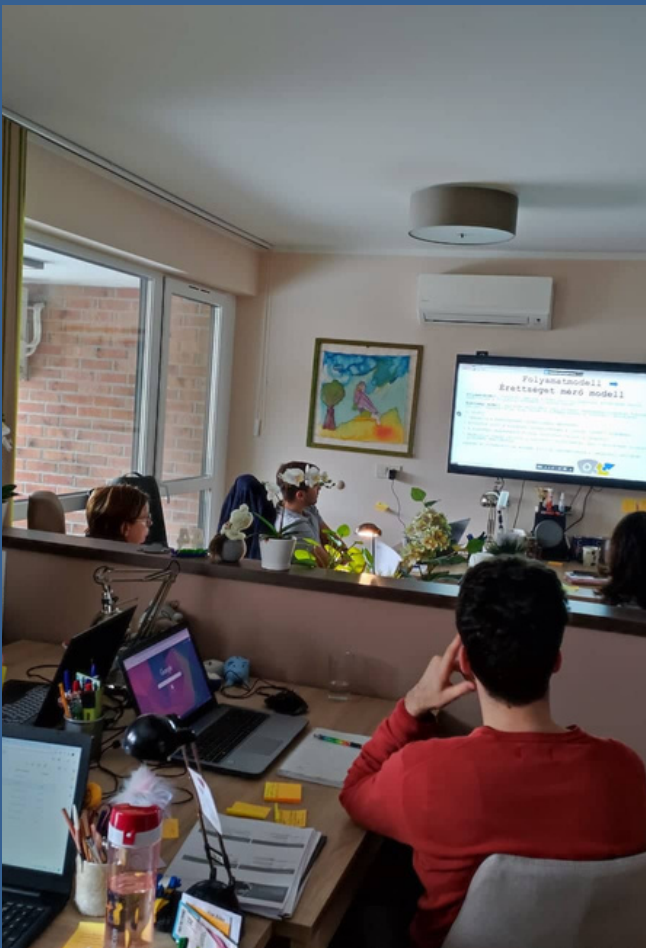
EXTERNAL TESTING

The testing activities were conducted also outside the doors of our organisations.

External institutions, including educational providers, SMEs and SMOs, applied our project products for a period of two months within their organisations, in their everyday work, to see how they can use them to improve their performance on the international business scene.

3 external organisations took part in the testing activities in all 6 partner countries, with at least 3 employees each - adding up to at least 64 external testers of the project results.

The evaluation of the results is currently ongoing, nonetheless, we are thrilled to share with you already some of the thoughts of our testers.



Thoughts and comments



'It is great that further materials are linked in the email.'

'The email course is well designed. It features atmospheric colours and is lightened up with well-placed photos and graphics.'

'The topics and tools of the Handbook are very interesting. We learnt many new things that we plan to use in our future work.'

'We liked the Self-Assessment Tool in general. The glossary of terms is also very useful.'

'The videos are very compact and informative.'

'The Self-Assessment Tool allows to think about concepts and internal approaches that may be taken for granted and accepted by default. By questioning them, you can truly find the right ways to step forward.'

'The answers of the Self-Assessment Tool offer a great basis for improvement and discussion about the status quo within our team'

'The Handbook addresses almost all organisational aspects.'

'It is possible to see the actual status of the organisation and plan the future steps. It gives motivation to step forward to develop in different fields.'

'Great Job! We are looking forward to receive the next emails!'

A big thank you to our Testers for their precious support!



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Make the most out of your organisation at a European level!

Lets connect!



info@emcra.eu
upgrade2europe@csmkik.hu

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