



## Promote your Soft Skills with Open Badges

### Fourth (and final) Newsletter

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#### The project in brief

SoftSkills4EU is an international project, that has the aims to:

- identify the key soft skills needed in Europe,
- develop a standardized system for self-evaluation and validation using the concept of open badges

- develop new e-learning tools
- and a strategy for recognition, aimed towards employers, counsellors and other relevant stakeholders.

**A short video about the project is available via <https://youtu.be/QWUfd0RiPfU>**

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## **The SoftSkills Academy is available!**

Find it at <https://www.academy-softskills4.eu>

In this academy you will find learning material for different groups of soft skills.

The learning material (also available in Greek, Italian, Slovenian, Croatian and Dutch) contains questions to reflect on as well as useful exercises.

And those who are ready can take the assessment and earn a soft skill badge!

An instruction for use of the academy can be found in this YouTube-video: [https://youtu.be/en\\_NLX-m2\\_Q](https://youtu.be/en_NLX-m2_Q)

We recommend the new Europass Portfolio as the place where you can safely store your newly earned badges, please refer to: <https://youtu.be/K9bbjkl2fhE>

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In the previous newsletters we already presented to you three of the five modules of the SPOCC-Framework. Now it is time to take a look at the last two: Cooperative Skills and Creative Thinking.

## **SPOCC Framework module 4: Cooperative Skills**

Skills gained in this module are aiming at the improvement of mutual cooperation within the workplace. Successful cooperation between workers significantly and directly improves work performance and results for the organization as a whole.

Cooperative skills provide an understanding of how to reach mutual goals and objectives with effective cooperation between co-workers.

To meet this aim, the module covers the 5 following topics:

1. Teamwork management
2. Team building
3. Flexibility and adaptability
4. Working styles
5. Collaboration and networking

## **SPOCC Framework module 5: Creative Thinking Skills**

The Creative Thinking module aims to teach job seekers and adults educators how to be innovative, implement changes and think analytically. Creativity means to be able to come up with something completely new. Creative thinking is the ability to see something (a conflict, a data set, a group project) in a new way. We can say that creativity simply means "thinking outside the box." Therefore, creativity is innovative thinking, or the ability to recognize patterns that are not obvious. Creative people have the ability to use new techniques, come on with new ways to carry out tasks, solve problems, and cope with challenges. People with this sort of skills bring a fresh and sometimes unorthodox perspective

to their regular and basic work. Because of that, this way of thinking can help firms and organizations develop more productive directions, obviously for these reasons, creative people are very valuable to all companies.

Like other cognitive abilities, creative thinking ability can be trained with practice, although some people are naturally more creative oriented than others.

To meet this aim, the module covers the 5 following topics:

1. Innovativeness
2. Constant improvement
3. Analytical thinking
4. Implementing changes
5. Fostering creativity



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**SoftSkills4EU Pilot testing in Croatia**

As part of the SoftSkills4EU project, pilot tests provided us with a good opportunity to receive direct feedback from the target group of the project (job-seekers, migrants) on the material developed and also on the process of receiving an open badge. For the pilots, mentors from all the partner countries supported participants to register into the platform and monitored their progress. After covering the pilot testing in Cyprus and The Netherlands in the last newsletter, now it is time for Croatia:

The main goal of the pilot implementation was to test the developed module "Creative thinking skills" by enrolling the suited participants to the online platform who then had to study the presented learning materials and take the online quiz to test their knowledge upon which they could earn the Badge.

We acquired many participants to help us being involved in pilot testing. As the learning materials were found suitable for graduates and high school seniors, we decided to administer the pilots at the higher education institution, under the guidance from the project leader. We have also spread SoftSkills4EU pilot testing news to a network of career counsellors from various adult education organizations (career counselling), people with a migrant background and many more, in order to receive as many feedbacks as possible.

The received feedback was positive and encouraging, meeting the expectations of participants. Most of the participants have evaluated newly acquired knowledge as being very interesting and helpful, giving a proper base of knowledge. We have received feedback from the participants that the content within the module was very entertaining making them eager to know more. The module is provided with real-time examples so from their standpoint they were able to use knowledge in various everyday life situation, which was so great to hear as that was one of the main goals behind this project.

The participants, taking in consideration that they are mostly younger age participants, have especially emphasized their sympathy for the innovative and effective way of studying. From their point of view, the content of Creative thinking skills helped them mostly in terms of personal growth and further employment.

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## Multiplier Events

To conclude the project and present the end results of the SoftSkills4EU project to stakeholders, we organised a series of so-called Multiplier Events. National events organised by the five project partners, and on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 an International Event in the form of a webinar with the following program:

- *Welcome & short introduction of the project members (Erik van den Broek - DUO Groningen, host)*
- *Development of innovative tools for assessment and strengthening soft skills and its importance for adult education, guidance and lifelong learning (Tina Kržišnik - RIC Novo Mesto, project leader)*
- *The development of the Framework and the Learning Materials (Chrystalla Thrasyvoulou&Stelios Stylianou - Emphasys Nicosia; Zoe Čupić - PAR Rijeka, project members)*
- *Development of the Badge System and Soft Skills Passport (Erik van den Broek - DUO Groningen, project member)*
- *Adaptations for Disadvantaged groups (Beniaminio Torregrossa - Promimpresa Palermo, project member)*
- *Closing Discussion & Call for action*



The project now has come to a conclusion.  
All results and outputs are available on our  
website [www.SoftSkills4.eu](http://www.SoftSkills4.eu)

We would like to thank everyone who took part  
for their support and for their contribution to the  
SoftSkills4EU project!



You can also follow us on the social channels  
linked below





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*The creation of these resources has been (partially) funded by the ERASMUS+ grant program of the European Union under grant no.2018-1-SI01-KA204-047088. Neither the European Commission nor the project's national funding agency are responsible for the content or liable for any losses or damage resulting of the use of these resources.*

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