



# ATLEC Newsletter June 2013

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## Newsletter 1



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**ATLEC project**

*Lifelong Learning Programme  
518229-LLP-1-2011-1-UK-  
LEONARDO-LMP*

## Project Overview

The ATLEC project (Assistive Technology Learning Through A Unified Curriculum) is partially funded by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme and is steadily progressing in its work, trying to fill the current gap concerning the ICT AT (Assistive technologies) training of European citizens with disabilities.



Essential part of the ATLEC project is the development of a curriculum for training and empowering persons with disabilities in the use of AT, specifically AT based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT AT). The curriculum is a framework of learning outcomes that deal with transferring knowledge, enhancing skills and developing competencies. These may be individually tailored depending on the needs of the learners - both the beneficiary of ICT AT as well as the professional user - who want to become an informed user, a skilled user or an expert.



The applied pedagogical methodologies will use blended learning (face-to-face, online and mobile), and will provide accessible WCAG2.0 compliant learning/training objects/material, which are thus exchangeable with other learning initiatives.

## ATLEC Mobile application

An Android based mobile application will allow on the spot training of trainers and people with disabilities about usage of ICT AT, specific to the situation they are in, thus providing a customised content provision. This will be directly linked with the information provided by the ATLEC portal and training platform.

A mentoring scheme will also be set up and run in workplaces in Belgium and Greece, directly linking the knowledge and skills acquired with the practice,



while also facing the reality in the working environment.

## Survey findings

ATLEC undertook research into the needs of people with disabilities combined with a state of the art analysis into the ICT-AT training that is currently available in all participating countries, and an evaluation of the quality of the training received. [The findings are now available and can be downloaded here.](#)

Analysis of the results from the online survey conducted in 2012, combined with the results and comments from the focus groups organized in all countries indicate that there is a need to provide training to people with disabilities to improve their ICT-AT skills and competences. Currently the training provided is rather ad-hoc and usually starts with a demonstration of the equipment and then very often it is left to the individual to access any formal training that they feel they need to make the best use of the equipment that they have. This training very often is either self taught or provided by a member of staff from within the service that provided the equipment or from within the establishment that the person may attend on a regular basis, such as an educational establishment or day centre.



One thing that is clear from this report is that this training is not usually currently provided by people with disabilities themselves. Focus group respondents indicate that people with disabilities may be supported to become experts in the use of ICT-AT and may then be best placed to provide this training to others.

The learning objectives of the ATLEC curriculum will increase the skills levels of people with disabilities and should, in turn, allow for increased independence and improved potential for employment. However, at the same time, it must be recognised that there remain attitudinal barriers and discriminatory practice on the part of employers that must also be addressed for people with disabilities to compete in an open labour market. While this is needed, it does not lie within the scope of the project.

Overall the survey has confirmed the need for a unified but flexible and variable training curriculum to improve people with disabilities' employability and to increase their potential to become experts or even trainers in the field of ICT-AT. This was seen across all the groups that completed the survey and they all felt that it would add value to the aim of making people with disabilities more independent, more highly skilled and more employable.

We have been working with people with disabilities and other stakeholders to create the curriculum in line with these research results. They will be available in September 2013.

## 4<sup>th</sup> ATLEC meeting in Athens (Greece)



The 4th ATLEC meeting is taking place on 25-26/6/2013 at the Kostis Palamas' Building in Athens, Greece. All of the partners are participating to collaborate and discuss the next steps of the project.

The past 3 meetings took place in Nottingham (UK), Ypres (Belgium) and Bologna (Italy).

### Final symposium of the ViPi and ATLEC projects

The final Symposium of the two European lifelong learning projects (VIPI and ATLEC) will present their outcomes within a wider framework of learning, employment and independent living for people with disabilities. The two projects are complementary as VIPI focuses on the development of skills in ICT for (young) adults with disabilities and ATLEC on skills and competences in ICT based Assistive Technologies.



The Symposium will take place on 4 December 2013 at VLEVA (Vlaams-Europes verbindingsagentschap vzw), Kortenberglaan 71, in Brussels (Belgium), and this in coincidence with the European week of people with disabilities when various disability related events take place in Brussels.

This event is organised with the support of the [Liaison agency Flanders-Europe](http://vleva.be) (vleva) and [Knowledge Center social Europe](http://kcse.eu) (KCSE).

The Symposium has a twofold aim: **raising awareness among gatekeepers and policy makers on the need for ICT and ICT based AT (assistive technology) training** on the one hand, and on the other hand **providing concrete curricula, training material, pedagogical methods and tools** which were produced by the projects, and which further

equal opportunities and the participation of people with disabilities in learning and employment.

The symposium therefore presents academic and experience-based contributions, while interactivity, dialogue and information exchange is sought with the participants in the different sessions and in the exhibition.

Other relevant projects and experiences are invited to contribute with a poster, leaflets and demonstration material to enrich the exhibition.

The participation of people with disabilities is incentivised by an accessible venue and by accessible presentations.

### **Target audience**

- People with disabilities, teachers, trainers, tutors, carers, policy makers, academics, ICT and AT experts and their organisations.

### **Following topics will be addressed during this symposium:**

- The right for training in the use of ICT/AT for people with disabilities
  - Training in international and European context (UN Convention – European Policies)
  - Training in Flemish context
- Need for training in the use of ICT AT: Point of view of the users
  - The need for qualified training in the use of ICT/AT for people with disabilities
  - Witness accounts of pilot participants
- Training on ICT and ICT AT in service provision and the labour market
  - The need for training in the use of ICT/AT and experiences in vocational training
  - Need for training in the use of ICT/AT and experiences in the labour market
  - Need for training in the use of ICT AT and experiences in care

### **Registration is possible via:**

Registration is available online via <http://tinyurl.com/ViPi-ATLEC>. Note that participation is only confirmed after receiving a formal confirmation email from us.

### **How to reach venue:**

VLEVA (Vlaams-Europees verbindingagentschap vzw), Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

**Closest metro station:** Schuman

**Online map:** [Google maps](#)



## ATLEC Consortium

The ATLEC partnership consists of: Oak Field School and Sports College (United Kingdom) –contractor-, PhoenixKM BVBA (Belgium) –coordinator-, Disability NOW (Greece), AIAS Bologna onlus (Italy), Greenhat Interactive Ltd (United Kingdom), and the University of Athens (Greece).

