Data security and digital identity

This project focuses on data security and digital identity. A European review concerning digital competences published in 2013 showed that indicators and measurement of digital competence were to a large extent lacking. 30% of Europeans are computer-illiterate and younger Europeans, who were born and raised in the era of Internet and having digital devices as an integral part of their everyday life, on the one hand may well have different views of and approaches to the disclosure of personal information; on the other hand, they appear to be unaware of privacy issues or prefer the short-term gains from providing personal data.

This project will be carried out at two vocational colleges having similar backgrounds, being however located in different countries. Both colleges have IT departments which will work closely together in this project.

The aim of this project is to enhance students' digital literacy including the awareness of the chances and dangers of ICT. They will comprehend that any traces they leave online might have a direct impact on their professional and private lives. In addition to this, students will work on different intercultural and IT-related project units in an international environment, thus enabling them to acquire comprehensive skills in the fields of data security, privacy issues, project and time management in international teams as well as social and language skills. As this project will be supported by German and Estonian IT and English language teachers, students' and teachers' general and IT-related language skills will be improved. We will primarily involve IT students in this project as they will use their IT knowledge to create study material for those students who are not familiar with IT. By doing so, our IT students will serve as ambassadors of data security and privacy issues. Not only, but they will also have the opportunity to become more socially responsible IT-experts, becoming more aware of these important issues.

In the course of this project, students will achieve different results. They will create videos about their schools and home towns. When focusing on IT-related problems, they will achieve the following results. They will work on:

- password management by creating interactive webpages in German and Estonian.

- PowerPoint presentations on internet crime. Then, they will programme a computer-based training which will be used by all students of the schools involved.

- online tutorials on Facebook and Google.

- PowerPoint presentations on the topic "digital awareness" including a list of recommendations which can be used by non-IT experts.

Blended mobility will be part of the project as we will use different online tools to prepare short-term exchanges. Students will have the possibility to share study material using joint workspaces such as etwinning, social networks, Skype etc. Moreover cooperation between teachers will be strengthened as they will have the chance to prepare assignments together and exchange teaching material. We will use short-term exchanges to present project results, engage in peer-to-peer teaching sessions, agree on further milestones and evaluate the progress of the project including time and project management, quality of the results and skills gained so far including social and language skills. These meetings will serve as huge milestones contributing to this project.

This project will leave a great impact on all stakeholders. Students and teachers who will be directly involved in the project activities will learn to study and teach in an international environment, coping with the difficulties of such cooperation and appreciating its benefits. Students who are directly involved will become more sensible computer-experts, taking into account the privacy and digital identity issues in private and business life. They will also learn that working in an international environment will enable them to gain social and intercultural skills that also help them deal with problems at home. This also improves their employability and has a direct influence on their future careers. Students who are not directly participating in this project will learn more about security issues as well.

This project will also have an effect on the local, national and also on the European level. Project activities contribute to the development of up-to-date curricula, new teaching and learning methods and the promotion of employability of students. Project activities in the long term will influence the content and attractiveness of education in all participating countries and on a European level: By developing and enhancing digital skills, all EU citizens, including youngsters, will be able to participate on a more equal footing in the digital economy. They will have better job prospects and enjoy higher opportunities for learning, creating, participating and being confident in the use of digital tools.