



Fifth Meeting Report

The fifth and final meeting of the EDGE Project took place in Limerick, Ireland from November 28th to November 30th. The hosting organization was LCETB (Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board). The attendees included:

Christos Giannakopoulos, Anastasia Giannakopoulou, Angeliki Giannakopoulou, Vasiliki Tsekoura (Greece), Rhydian Williams, Tudur Evans, Sarah K. Jones, (Wales), Herbert Depner, Martina Schneider (Austria) Sérgio Fernandes, José Carlos Alves (Portugal), Colm Galvin, Patricia Kennedy, Sheila McDonald, Vivienne Ryan, Elaine McCarthy, Máire Roche, Clare Gilmore (Ireland).

The focus of this meeting was to conclude the strategic partnership and our final output – the Final Report. Therefore, the first meeting session focused on finalising the structure of the Final Report and it was agreed that the partnership would produce two separate reports. The first will consist of a short, concise ‘handbook’ that will detail in a step-by-step manner how to set up and use the ePortfolio and the Open Badge framework. It was envisioned that this would be disseminated to educational practitioners, both inside and outside the partnership, to be used to upskill staff and learners. The second report will be much larger and will include the process by which the outputs were created, the results of our pilot groups, our methodology, and our recommendations. As the lead partner in this output, Greece is responsible for writing up the report, with input from the other partners.

The meeting also included a session on future Open Badge collaboration. At this point in the project, each partner has a creating, issuing and storing framework, teaching and learning resources and over thirty ready-to-use Badges. It was agreed that even though the project is coming to an end, we will continue to share Badges and other resources for the next five years by uploading these onto the EDGE website.

On day two of the meeting, we each presented our findings arising from the ePortfolio pilot groups. The results of these will be used to inform each partner’s implementation strategy for the ePortfolio.

This was followed by Ireland’s ‘best practice’ session in which the partners were given a tour of the Further Education and Training Centre and a short presentation on the refugee and migrant worker integration strategy and the long-term unemployed work placement strategy. An informal question and answer session followed in which key issues in these strategies were discussed – intensive ESOL provision followed by integration with ‘Irish’ learners, integration through social events, overcoming cultural barriers, duration of work placements and how Open Badges and the ePortfolio could be used to improve provision.

The final session on day two consisted of project management tasks (monitoring and evaluation and dissemination strategies) and agreeing on our action plan going forward.



Our meeting concluded on day three with a national dissemination event at the Further Education and Training Centre, Kilmallock Road Campus. Participants included local FET colleagues as well as representatives from the National Agency Léargas and from SOLAS, the National Further Education and Training Authority. The event was chaired by Colm Galvin, the LCETB EDGE co-ordinator, who provided an outline of the various milestones over the course of the Project (2015-2016) including the EDGE Open Badge framework. This was followed by a presentation from each of the international partners – Wales, Austria, Greece and Portugal. Sheila McDonald, ICT teacher with LCETB, then provided an overview of the ePortfolio in practice and showcased some excellent examples of how it can be used to best effect. The meeting then broke into working groups to discuss the implementation of both the Open Badges and ePortfolio into our programmes. All agreed that there was great scope for future local, national and European collaboration.