

CoTraiN**ewsletter** 2



Partners of the CoTraiN project accomplished a heavy work to make the collaborative trainings a reality. It is time now to briefly feedback main achievements we made and difficulties we faced at this date.

In Italy, Centoform achieved several collaborative trainings, mainly for future mechanical designers and technicians for the management and maintenance of automated systems. The collaborations aim to:

Allowing students to achieve competences related to technical design and to learn a second design software -different than the one learned in Centoform or by Italian partner VET Centres-, this leading to enrich their practice within companies. Students get the opportunity to learn a second design software within another company; leading them to master two design tools, which is of high interest on their CV. Design software is very expensive, for companies and more for training centres, even if the latter have a training version which is cheaper. For design offices, hiring new colleagues having an experience with two design programs is really a plus.

Allowing students to have a training period in a software company then on a production line of another company. It is a good opportunity to understand in practice how a production line works, from the designing to the production of the materials and final products as well. In some companies, students could also 3D print their designs.

For CoTraiN students, one of the main benefit is to have two powerful professional experiences, within the same training plan. This is valuable for their CV.

In Italy, the CoTraiN project has raised the attention of Norway... Centoform had the opportunity to welcome Norwegian colleagues notably to share their collaborative training experience and learnings.

In Belgium, administrative issues delayed the departure of the pilots. People working closely with employers know how they need concrete responses to questions, and how new practices can generate geysers of questions. We were well aware of that reality and anticipated most of it. However, we also had to face new administrative issues, coming with expected pilots. For most of them, we have now responses.

Until now, in Belgium, the collaborative trainings are in two training field: administrative sector and restauration. Other training fields are open and require a case-by-case approach.

Here is a short description of the collaborations, with few examples to make it concrete:

In restaurant business :

An apprentice made an apprenticeship in specialised restauration techniques. From a pastry shop, the apprentice went to work in a gastronomy restaurant targeting one star, where he could deepen his learning on presentation style on plate, sweet petits-fours, delicacies presentation style on plate...

Another collaboration between two restaurants allowed an apprentice to work presentation style on plates, American style service and preparation of desserts...

In the administrative training filed :

Thanks to a cotrain between a library shop and an administrative agency, an apprentice could practice activities he could not carry out in the first company: simplified accounting and simple accounting operations, corresponding, utilizing an inventory application program, knowing the commercial policy of the company.

A training centre built a cotrain between a social real estate agency and a real estate agency. This was the opportunity for the apprentice to learn from two different contexts, with different activities than in the “usual” private agencies.

Yes, pilots differ a lot between Italy and Belgium, but benefits for the students are very similar.

One of the CoTraiN dynamics is the coaching made by German and Austrian partners, helping to achieve pilots. So far, thanks to an in-depth collaboration, the pilots and the methodology guide are on a good way. The major ingredients for that are double. First, it was clear for every one that we will not make a copy-paste of the German and Austrian models. Second, we built the collaboration on a double focus: identifying, on one hand, the “why” of national system practices; on the other hand, understanding the “how” considering each national context. This way leads the partners to a real exchange of practices and expertise, and it will be highly reflected within the tools we are building: the methodology guide and the didactic video.

We will shortly come back to you with a save-the-date for the CoTraiN conference scheduled before June 2019.