

EUExcert Project Grows

The new partners from Lithuania and Estonia participated at the EUExcert meeting in Coimbra, Portugal in October 2007.

Egon Hirvesoo, representing The Technical Inspectorate in Estonia, stated that the work within the EUExcert project is very important and that he is eager to start working on the Leonard da Vinci project.

One of the aims of the EUExcert project is to widen the European network in the explosives sector. Stakeholders are engaged in National Reference groups. Egon Hirvesoo reported that the Estonian reference group has been established and is very active.

The glossary work in EUExcert is important and a standard is necessary from a legal point of view, according to Egon Hirvesoo. The Civil, Rescue, and Military organisations want a common terminology.

Jonas Sarlauskas, representing The Biochemical Institute in Vilnius, stated that the project



Partners in the EUExcert project met in Coimbra, Portugal.

work to establish a reference group in Lithuania is complete. Jonas adds a unique competence to the project group.

At the beginning of September, project leader Hans Wallin and Jonas Sarlauskas gave presentations in Lithuania about EUExcert.



Egon Hirvesoo



Jonas Sarlauskas

Sprengschule Dresden will arrange the next project meeting on the 4th and 5th of February 2008. The following meeting will take place on the 13th to 14th of June 2008 in Brussels. Important EU officials will be invited.

EUExcert available in Portuguese

The Italian partner Nitrex has translated the company's project website into Portuguese:

www.nitrex.it/euexcrt

Roberto Folchi and Mara Battocchio have provided the Nitrex website with a lot of useful information. It is now used as a knowledgebase for the Italian explosives sector.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FINLAND. Jorma Karhulahti presented a report based on a questionnaire about the need for training for both white and blue collar workers in the Finnish explosives plants 2007. Margaretha Rosberg represents the employee organisation YFIND in Sweden. She has distributed the same questionnaire to 30 Swedish industries and organisations asking about the need for training in Swedish plants. The results will be presented at the next meeting.



Jorma Karhulahti, Finland.

THE NORDIC COUNTRIES. EUExcert's project leader Hans Wallin gave a report on a meeting with Aslak Ravlo, Karl Kure and Thomas Daugård concerning an initiative from EFEE to apply for a new Leonardo project. The project concerns a harmonised European vocational education and training for shot firer licensing. Hans also gave a brief overview of an application to the Nordic Council for a joint Nordic EUExcert cooperation. The work is foreseen to include also the Baltic States.



Erik Nilsson presented a proposal for an association.

A Proposal for a Foundation

SWEDEN. KCEM has consulted a Business Lawyer who made a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding for a legal Association. Erik Nilsson presented the proposal to the partners at the meeting in Coimbra. It will be thoroughly discussed at the next meeting - which will be held at Sprengschule Dresden.

Partners Plan for a Bright Future together

Even though the project ends in the Autumn 2008, the partners in EUExcert plan for a future together.



Italian Roberto Folchi and Swedish Hans Wallin know how to appreciate the network.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SWEDEN. Learning Centre Masugnen, Sweden, The University of Pardubice, Czech Republic, and Cranfield University, UK, are testing distance education using video conference equipment.

The city of Lindesberg and the Learning Centre Masugnen have a long and successful history of distance learning for workplace based education. Partners in the project are invited to study visits. Gisela Spak described the infra-structure of the workplace based distance learning which Masugnen has built up in the last 15 years. Gisela also described the Logbook which is the latest development.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK. Jackie Akhavan presented EUExcert at a conference in Argentina in November. The Argentines are interested in joining the EUExcert network.

Ian Wallace participated in the EFEE conference in Vienna and presented EUExcert and the work in UK.

Jackie Akhavan will present EUExcert at the Parari conference in Australia.

Jackie Akhavan reported that the work with distance education for UNDP in Serbia and other countries continues. The web based basic explosives course is now available at Cranfield University website: www.dcmf.cranfield.ac.uk/

SWEDEN / PORTUGAL.

Hans Wallin and José Góis will send a paper and presentation to ISEE conference in New Orleans January 2008.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

Bret Janovskij from the Czech Republic reported that The University of Pardubice is working on the safety analysis of a factory working with disposal.

Successful Portuguese workshop

PORTUGAL.

Carlos José Góis reported from a successful workshop arranged for the explosives sector in Portugal at the beginning of October.

For the first time representatives from the air force, the navy, universities, private enterprises, manufacturing and the pyrotechnics industry, joined a workshop. The topics were the educational system and mandatory training requirements.

Jackie Akhavan, UK, Erik Nilsson, Sweden, and Jorma Karhulahti, Finland represented EUExcert at the conference.

Links about the Workshop on the Training of Explosives in Portugal:

http://www.apipe.org/docs/Programa_Workshop.pdf

<http://opinio.mai.gov.info/2007/10/03/debate-sobre-explosivos-em-coimbra/>

http://www.universia.pt/servicos_net/informacao/noticia.jsp?noticia=43407



http://www.mai.gov.pt/actualidades_d.asp?id=293

http://www.acabra.net/artigo.php?id_artigo=2580

<http://www.diariocoimbra.pt/16842.htm>

http://www.mai.gov.pt/data/actualidades_e_destaquados/docs/%7B4352C5C2-91E1-453B-AADD-ED4B8E9AAAD4%7D_Explosivos_Workshop_COIMBRA1.htm

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Aims of the project:

Improve safety and create EU standards for workers in the explosives sector.

The overall aim of EUExcert is to reduce the number of accidents in the explosives business.

In the explosives' sector in several European countries a high proportion of the most experienced and knowledgeable people are nearing retirement.

As a consequence it is important to replenish this expertise in this key technological area.

The project involves:

- Mapping competency needs for the explosives industry for the European market
- Developing a competency framework that can be developed into a European standard
- The dissemination of results from the project to international stakeholders and the explosives sector.

For more information, please visit our homepage: www.euexcert.org or contact one of the partners involved.