**WORK PACKAGE 4 – CAPACITY BUILDING**

**WG 3: Innovative ways of learning key competences**

**TEMPLATE FOR COLLECTION OF GOOD PRACTICES**

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| **Name of the best practice** | Project Based Learning (PBL) through the paperless classroom |
| **Country** | Northern Ireland |
| **Description** | ‘Project Based Learning through the paperless classroom’ is an engaging, innovative collaboration with teams promoting best practice. Using Technology Enhance Learning (TEL) tools within the curriculum has made the students’ learning environment a cloud based, inspiring, exciting and innovative space to learn. Students follow a series of live briefs that are supportive of their curriculum needs and assessments, thus making them more employable in industry. This promotes 21st Century quality teaching and learning within the classroom environment, removing the limitations of the traditional classroom by learning through both project based learning and TEL. |
| **Who is involved? How were they motivated to participate?** | All students follow a comprehensive range of live briefs incorporating educational and training opportunities. Implementing the key elements of Project Based Learning strategies, in cross-curricular disciplines for both staff and students in a number of departments across the college. This allows staff to consolidate and further develop interdepartmental links, forging connections with external stakeholders, employers, local designated charities and the wider community; strengthening current vocational links within industry and other colleges. This year a record number of staff and students took part in Project Based Learning through the paperless classroom resulting in a totally enjoyable highly proactive and innovative learning experience. |
| **Benefits** | * Quality of student interaction improves dramatically * Learning is innovative, effective and fun * Learning is active * Remote collaboration for staff and students * Limitation of the traditional classroom is removed * No paper, no notes, no printing, no carrying of folders or heavy bags * Students don’t forget to bring their learning material or pens – nothing is lost * Time saving * By replacing paper with the use of mobile devices for teaching has now changed staff and student perception within the classroom. |
| **Challenges and how they were overcome** | * All staff and students must use the same digital platform- Cloud based * Students are encouraged to buy extra Cloud storage during induction (nominal fee) * Having an efficient digital filing system * Start small keep it simple * Learn one app. Practice, implement, evaluate and adapt your lesson plan and scheme of work * Buy in from all users – information and training sessions * Reluctance to move away from more traditional methods of learning and assessment * Expectations from awarding bodies – meet and discuss with external verifier |
| **Step by step for the implementation of the good practice (transferability to other VET college)** | * Deliver a robust staff development session on the implementation of the paperless classroom * In collaboration with TEL mentors and support staff * Each staff member to identify one group of students in their curriculum area to pilot the paperless classroom * Encouraging the team to become paperless in their administration of all documentation related to their teaching practice. |
| **Target group** | * Pilot groups * All staff * All students * A total organisational approach / paperless college |