



Project Overview – Page 1

IO1 Update - REMOTE-CTRL Masterclasses and Employer Manual – Page 1

IO2 Update – Remote working toolkit for employees – Page 2

Second Partner Meeting – Some Highlights – Page 2

Introduction

Welcome to the third newsletter of the REMOTE-CTRL project. Within this newsletter we reflect on progress with two of the project's intellectual outputs as well as the key highlights from the second partner meeting in July 2021. Finally, there is a call for action at the end of the newsletter.



Project Overview

The REMOTE-CTRL project started in November 2020. The project consists of eight partner organisations from the UK, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Romania. The overall aim of the project is to develop a set of bespoke learning and training resources that will address the needs of employers, employees and vocational education and training (VET) professionals in a remote working environment. These resources will include:

- A set of learning materials and resources for managers and leaders within small businesses to effectively support staff in working remotely
- A set of resources for current employees to manage working remotely and individuals looking for employment to remotely manage different stages in the employment journey
- A new in-service professional development training programme for vocational education and training professionals
- An e-learning platform which will provide access to demand-led learning resources for both managers and leaders of small businesses and their staff.

IO1 Update - REMOTE-CTRL Masterclasses and Employer Manual

The first intellectual output of the project involves the development of a set of learning materials and resources which will provide employers, business owners and managers with the tools that they need to allow them to adapt to remote, or hybrid working practices within their business.

The masterclasses and manual, together with 16 corresponding REM Talks (which are like TED talks) will assist employers and business owner-managers with their decision making in how to effectively manage remote work.

The partners have nearly completed the development of the REM Talks, taking the listeners on journeys into a fashion company, to a company happy hour and even into the conference room with the Beatles. These short, informative and entertaining talks form the basis for corresponding masterclasses and resource toolkits to provide a deep dive into theory while at the same time giving the employers the means and the freedom to perform certain activities on their own. Half of the masterclasses are developed, with the second half to be finished soon. The final activity – the development of eight toolkits which will consist of a number of resources which provide practical advice and guidance on managing remote working - will be developed early next year.

All the masterclasses will be delivered as online sessions in Spring 2022. Be one of the first to test this new format and get ahead when it comes to establishing remote work for the long run after the pandemic!



IO2 Update – Remote working toolkit for employees

The needs of employers and employees in remote working can be somewhat different. To this end, the second intellectual output of the project involves the development of a toolkit which will support employees in managing successful remote careers. This intellectual output will provide a complete suite of resources which addresses the issue of remote working from a holistic perspective. The toolkit is underpinned by three themes:

- PREPARE - Skills for remote working readiness
- SEARCH - Skills for remote job seeking
- SECURE - Skills for remote job retention

Within each theme, there are six sub-topics and partners are currently working on the development of the following resources for these sub-topics: a short video presentation; a factsheet with access to further resources and a learner handbook which will include a copy of the script and PowerPoint used in the video presentation and a set of self-reflection exercises for learners to complete which will enhance different skills required to managing remote careers.

Second Partner Meeting

In keeping with the theme of the project, the second partner meeting was hosted online by SFEDI, the project lead, between the 1st and 2nd July 2021. Attended by 13 representatives from the eight partners, it provided an opportunity for the partners to review progress with the development of the materials as part of IO1 and IO2, discuss the development of the in-service training programme for VET professionals and map out different ways in which the learning materials and resources could be presented on the MOOC learning platform. One of the key outcomes from the meeting was agreement as to how the REM Talks would be produced and used as a way of engaging learners with the project.



Getting Involved

If you are interested in learning more about the REMOTE-CTRL project and the outputs to date, please visit <https://remotectrl.eu/>. If you are a small business owner-manager and you would like to share your experiences of supporting remote working and/or a vocational education and training professional who knows of examples of good practice in businesses managing remote working please do get in touch. Also, if you would like to explore ways of getting involved with the piloting of the materials, please contact Leigh (leigh.sear@sfedi.co.uk).

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