





Emphasys Centre

Name of the organisation:	Emphasys Centre	
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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify) School/Institute/Educational centre – Adult education

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify) -Adult (from all social backgrounds) -Youth – School (Primary, Secondary, Higher)

Description of the organisation

'Emphasys Centre' was established in 1998 and is operating as a highly successful 'Education, ICT Training (VET) and Research Centre, approved by the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (MOECYS). Its vision is to offer high quality lifelong learning opportunities in the field of ICT to learners of all ages in order to upgrade their lives, ensure inclusion, access and participation in the digitalized economy.

Emphasys is adequately staffed by 12 F/T and 4 P/T committed and highly qualified professionals, both researchers and teachers, with extensive experience in thematic areas relevant to the organisation's expertise covering a wide range of areas such as IT, Computer Science, Business, Psychology, Sociology, Logistics, Graphic Design, Architecture, Law, Environmental etc.

Emphasys comprises of four main directorates:

1) Education Directorate which offers:

- Validated and certified IT courses accredited by national and EU examination boards such as the Cyprus Computer Society (ECDL – EQF Level 3-4), the MOECYS (Pancyprian IT exams – EQF Level 5), Cambridge University (GCE A Level Computer Science) etc.
- Professional qualification for employment, as well as qualification to enter National and EU universities.
- Career guidance and counseling services to young people and students, as well as counseling and special support to all learners according to their needs (Early School Leavers, Young unemployed people, Special Educational Needs, etc.).
- Organization of seminars, presentation, discussions, mobility (local-regional) in cooperation with established bodies (e.g. Bioethics National Committee, CCS) for various issues of concern of our target groups.

2) ICT Training Directorate which is active both at the national/regional and EU level through the various training courses/ seminars/ summer schools/ mobilities/ labs etc. offered to different target groups such as students/ young people, as well as professionals (adults, teachers, youth workers, adult educators, seniors, youth etc.). Emphasys is actively involved in the design and implementation of various courses (digital and employability courses) for professional development or in-service training offered by established organizations such as the Ministries, Semi-public authorities etc. Three sub-units are established targeting the digital needs of the labour market and bridging the gap between education and the world of work, while promoting the acquisition of STEAM skills problem solving and computational logic:

- The STEAM UNIT which is fully equipped with high tech tools in order to offer project-driven related courses to young people combining Robotics, 3D Design and Printing using the Craftbot+ 3D Printer, and Coding through Video Game design using state of the art Virtual Reality Headsets such as the Oculus Rift S guided with 'Lego Education Trainer' instructors.
- The ONE STOP DIGITAL SUPPORT CENTRE provides various opportunities both on-line and off-line for the acquisition of digital, employability and entrepreneurial skills for adults and young people. Targeted seminars, experts' visits and tutorials, career advisors' presentations etc. are organized aiming to upgrade their skills for the digitalized economy and the labour market. A wide selection of tools and platforms is available for people to use.
- European Training UNIT which focuses on the organization and provision of KA1 Learning Mobility Courses for Teachers, Adult Educators, Young People, Youth Workers, VET trainers etc. in various fields such as 'Coding and Robotics for Educators', 'Technology Tools in the classroom', 'STEAM for teenagers', 'Internet Security and Safety on line' etc.

Opportunities for internships, job shadowing and teaching practice are also offered with the guidance and support of our experienced mentors.

3) Research Directorate which cooperates closely with several organizations for the preparation, implementation and management of various EU projects in different programmes, such as the Erasmus+ in the field of Education, VET, Sports and youth, AMIF, Justice and other national programmes. Emphasys is a member of the DLEARN Digital Learning Network, a highly active network promoting digital literacy and acquisition, with other 25 organisations from Europe. Two of its projects have been awarded as a GOOD PRACTICE

PROJECTS by the European Commission (CODE@YOUTH – Youth Sector-CYPRUS and V-UPGRATES – VET Sector-GERMANY).

4) Software Development Directorate which is involved in the design, development, pilot-testing and evaluation of various e-learning tools, platforms, websites, applications and assessment portals etc. based on the needs of the various project being implemented by the organization.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Emphasys has an extensive experience in the implementation of EU projects – below you can find some projects that Emphasys participated in the last 3 years:

Erasmus+ KA2 2019 2019-HR01-KA205-061028 Parents' Association "Step by Step"-CROATIA
Erasmus+ KA2 2019 2019-PT01-KA204-060701 Associação Rede de Universidades da Terceira Idade -PORTUGAL
Erasmus+ KA2 2019 2019-A-SI01-KA204-060426 CENTER PONOVDNE UPORABE - SLOVENIA
Erasmus+ KA2 2019 2019-1-DE02-KA204-006474 GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITAET HANNOVER, Germany
Erasmus+ KA2 2019 2019-1-PL01-KA201-065123 SPOLECZNA AKADEMIA NAUK-POLAND
Erasmus+ KA2 2019 2019-1-DE04-KA205-017888 CULTURE GOES EUROPE (CGE)-SOZIOKULTURELLE INITIATIVE ERFURT EV - GERMANY
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-3-DE04- KA205-017182 ULSTER UNIVERSITY -UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-A-DE02-KA202-005130 GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITAET HANNOVER
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-DE02-KA202-005145 Ingenious Knowledge
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-ES01-KA204-050065 Academia Postal 3 Vigo SL
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-IT02-KA204-048292 Istituto tecnico statale il turismo "Cristoforo Colombo", Italy
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-UK01-KA205-047672 CIVIC COMPUTING, UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-7-SL01-KA204-047088 RIC NOVO MESTO, Slovenia
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-UK01-KA204-047986 A1 Community Works,UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-7-UK01-KA201-048001 CIVIC COMPUTING, UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-UK01-KA201-048152 CIVIC COMPUTING, UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-UK01-KA201-048041 University of Wolverhampton,UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 VG-IN-NI-18-30-047411 University of Hannover, Germany
Erasmus+ KA2 2018 2018-1-EL01-KA201-047823 National center for scientific research "Demoktiros", Greece
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-UK01-KA201-036799 Lancaster Royal Grammar School, UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-RO01-KA202-037308 Casa Corpului Didactic Mures, Romania
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-SE01-KA204-034538 HÄLSINGLANDS UTBILDNINGSFÖRBUND, Sweden
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-UK01- KA202-036686 edEUcation Ltd, UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-UK01-KA204-036712 Civic Computing, UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-LV01-KA204-035455 Project NET, Riga, Latvia
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-UK01-KA205-036208 Civic Computing, UK
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-DE04-KA205-015273 GCE e.V. Erfurt, Germany
Erasmus+ KA2 2017 2017-1-PL01-KA201-03854 Spoleczna Akademia Nauk, Poland

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

The areas relevant to this project are:

- Emphasys has previous experience with the field of DEMENTIA as partner in the FORGET-ME-NOT Erasmus+ VET project completed in August 2019 with an award from the UK NA. The target group was carers of Dementia sufferers both formal (social workers, nurses) and non-formal (members of the family) and the focus was on investigating how the recovery of memories could support sufferers through the use of on-line tools and a custom-made platform.
 - It works closely with adult educators/trainers, social workers, teachers, seniors, adults, professionals, young people and youth workers offering upskilling programmes for the acquisition of specific competences or for personal development, such as ICT courses, safety on line, internet addiction, employability, soft skills, empowerment etc.
 - It organizes the ONE STOP SUPPORT CENTRE, both on-site as well as in other places (e.g. Elderly People's House, Community Centre) where it offers opportunities to various groups of adults for LLL or intergenerational learning, targeting mainly vulnerable groups of adults in order to acquire specific skills or for upskilling/reskilling training for a sustainable future. It also creates opportunities for visits, job shadowing, internships etc. in order to have a first-hand experience.
- In addition, Emphasys is developing and managing LMS platforms offering e-learning opportunities as well as e-tools and e-assessment procedures. Its experience with the assessment and validation methodology of the Open Badges is substantial and it can be fully used for the project in order to offer transparent, valid and visible skills for the target group.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Emphasys has an extensive experience in adult learning methods and practices and also in the implementation of EU Erasmus+ programmes. Additionally, it organizes the One Stop Support Centre, both on-site as well as in other places (e.g. Elderly People's House, Community Centre) where it offers opportunities to various groups of adults for LLL or intergenerational learning. Finally, Emphasys has experience in the development and management of LMS platforms, offering e-learning opportunities as well as e-tools and e-assessment procedures.

Reasons of involvement in the project

Emphasys through its involvement in the field of adult education can provide access to adult/senior population and also to provide guidance and support in the development and delivery of the learning material. Additionally, due to Emphasys experience in the development and management of LMS platforms, can provide support in the design of the e-learning tools and validation procedures to be used in the project.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Athos Charalambides is the founder and director of Emphasys Centre and Head of the Education Directorate. He has studied in the UK where he has obtained a BSc in Computer Science and an MSc in User Interface Design. He has worked for several years as a software developer both in the UK and Cyprus earning valuable work experience within the labour market. Based on his great experience in management and coordination, Athos is currently supervising a great number of EU and national projects in all sectors, while being involved in the quality assurance and control procedures of the organization, as well as the development of IT solutions, platforms, mobile apps etc.

Stelios Stylianou has completed his BSc in Criminology at the University of Durham, followed by an MSc in Psychological Studies at the University of Glasgow. He worked as a Mental Health Recovery Worker in Glasgow supporting people with severe mental illnesses and addictions. During this time, Stelios developed strong links with various organisations while gaining valuable experience on the development of policies and practices related to the provision of care services for people in need. He has previous experience with working with people with Dementia, as well as through EU projects in the field. He is currently working as a Project Research Officer.

Demetra Orthodoxou is the Executive Project Coordinator with advanced studies (MSc) in Operations Research and Logistics from Wageningen University (Netherlands) and a BSc degree from Liverpool University in Computer Science. She has great experience working in NGOs with green and sustainable orientation and focus and has been involved in the development of applications for collecting unused material. She is currently the Executive Project Coordinator leading a team of 8 researchers working in numerous Erasmus+ projects. She has great experience in the development, implementation and assessment of both training programmes, on-line tools and platforms.