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This project is being funded with support from the European Commission.

Project Nr.:
519025-LLP-1-2011-1-AT-KA2-KA2MP
Sub-Programme:
Languages (Key Activity 2) Multilateral Projects



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Construction-related Language Learning for Migrant Workers (CoLa)



Project Background

The European construction sector is staffed by high levels of migrant workers who in many cases lack host country and work-related language skills.



Construction also accounts for the highest proportion of accidents at work among all sectors. Existing data suggest a higher accident rate for migrant workers. Experts consider language deficiencies as a barrier to career development, to improving safety in the workplace and to a successful social integration.

Project Aims

The project aims to improve the language skills of (low-skilled) migrant workers in the construction sector, by developing language learning materials tailored to their specific needs.

Learning Materials



The learning materials cover
three themes...

1. construction specific language
2. health protection and safety on construction sites
3. social interaction with colleagues from a different cultural and language background

The materials will include a video and supportive text-based learning units for each of the three themes for use either as a 'toolbox' or on an e-learning platform.

...in five languages

Dutch, English, French, German, Spanish.

Learning Environments

The materials will be developed for different learning environments:

- a class-room environment for times of unemployment when migrants are often sent to language courses by Employment Agencies.



- In periods of employment language learning can be organised either directly on construction sites or close to the working place with the help of mentors (learning facilitators) such as migrant community 'leaders' with good host country language skills.
- Self-learning.