WP6 – Training Actions

Context:

This Training Action was taken from the list of best practices and may be related to the following Key Educational Factors (KEF): Relationships, Individualities and Inter-institutional communication. The specific KEF depends on the type of project undertaken and how the students and staff engage with it.

„Webchair" is a videoconferencing system which was developed in the Netherlands. It helps students to participate in lessons at their mainstream schools. The system is always available in the classroom whenever a student at home or in hospital wants to take part in lessons, and it also supports teachers at school.

> ## Homepage:
>
> http://www.webchair.com

The system consists of cameras, microphones, speakers and screens located both with the absent student (at home or in hospital) and in the classroom. The child can operate the camera in the classroom and can interact with his or her classmates.

The Webchair website provides information about the system for each target group; the student and his/her parents, the teachers and the school.

Possible use in the HHE context

This system is very suitable for children with medical needs. In particular, in cases of long-term illness, students can stay in contact with his /her school friends.

There are several scenarios in which the system can be used to establish a connection between the hospital and a school:

Children with medical needs in hospital and in the classroom of their home school:

The child is able to watch the lessons and can focus on anything in the classroom.

The child can talk to his/her classmates and join the lessons.

Children with medical needs in hospital and the family at home:

On weekends, the camera can be installed at home. Thus, the children can join family get-togethers or interact with their pets.

Doctors in hospital and classmates

The medical doctor can explain the situation and the treatment f the child is undergoing, e.g. before the child returns to their class. The classmates can ask questions concerning the illness of the child.

Installation and parent´s agreement

An important issue concerning the use of Webchair concerns personal rights and data security. All parents of children in the mainstream class have to sign a special agreement to permit a camera to be installed in the classroom and transmit the lessons to the hospital. This will be lead to discussions among the parents. Therefore, the stakeholders wishing to use Webchair will have to be very empathic to convince the parents of the benefits and the safety of the system.

Pricing

The standard rate to use Webchair is € 300,- per month for the full service application, including upgrades. Within one month Webchair can establish the service in any school and hospital location.

Hospital Schools who are interested in using the system should contact the Dutch office of Webchair:

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Further information

Here is a Dutch language film that demonstrates Webchair being used in a school:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsxXx5LfuJ0

The essence of this film is that after a short period of adjustment by the staff and the pupils, it really feels like Nik is at school with his friends. The teacher has to allow a little extra time when putting things up on the whiteboard to allow for Nik to zoom in, but other than that it is just like her is really there. His friends take the large screen and setup from lesson to lesson so that he can join in whenever he feels up to it, and they even manage to secretly "chat"

behind the teacher's back by holding up written notes in front of the camera for him to read. Even the school photo isn't a problem as Nik can be there for that too.

What do partners need to implement the system?

1. Access to the internet in hospital and at school.
2. Install PCs, cameras and microphones.
3. Establish a face-to-face connection (not a Skype-connection)

Additional Notes

Partners may choose to share any films they make during their project on the LeHo YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMD5zSd3x4VqoBwDUVK7n4w).

WP6 – Evaluation of Training Actions

Full questionnaires will be developed and circulated at a later date. Please be aware that they will ask questions in a similar style.

Partners may wish to build in evaluation opportunities during the project to ensure that opinions of all stakeholders are collected.

What went well?	
What didn't?	
Additional Training needs?	
Advice for fieldwork experiences?	