Dear Readers,

This is the first newsletter of Project IPEC. By sending out a bi-annual newsletter, we would like to keep you up-to-date regarding the activities and progress in this project. From interesting research and project outcomes to events, from project progress to partnership meetings.

Project IPEC aims to develop a new micro-lite project management methodology including gamification elements, based on the needs of micro and small businesses. As these businesses are rarely able to employ dedicated project managers, they often struggle with their project management. Research has shown that only 2.5% of companies successfully complete 100% of their project. This calls for action.

If you want to get involved in discussions, give your opinion or make a statement, please join us on our LinkedIn Group.

Kind regards,

The Project IPEC Consortium
**Interesting research results!**

In the past few months’ research has been conducted by the project partners to gather information about the understanding and experience of project management amongst the target group of the project; which are small and micro businesses. Around 110 small and micro businesses have participated in the survey. The first results can be drawn from the research and state the following:

- The use of a project management methodology is considered very important by the target group. However, very few have attended a company-paid project management course within the last 12 months.

- Experience is considered more important than certification in the process of project management.

- Planning and scheduling is highlighted as most challenging process in project management.

- There is definitely a need for a project management methodology adapted to meet the needs of small and micro businesses, as around 2/3 of the respondents express their desire for a micro-lite project management methodology.
Partners are busy with the development of the project management model, the IPEC Model. The Model will be characterised by structure and simplicity. The structure of the Model is based on the IPEC cycle which stands for Initiate, Plan, Execute and Close: the various phases of project execution. These phases contain a number of major tasks to be completed. Each task during its progress encapsulates a variety of activities containing smaller actions, or activities as we call them. The Model will also contain useful tools that will support and facilitate the project manager in the project execution. Finally, gamification will be implemented in the Model by gamifying the elementary concepts of the Model. The Model will be presented soon. Keep an eye on our project website!

Second partnership meeting will take place 19th - 20th of May. Partners will gather in Athens to discuss project progress, with the host partner of this meeting being AVACA Technologies SA. Important items on the agenda include the finalisation of the IPEC Model and the presentation of the research results. Also, future tasks and activities will be discussed during this meeting. This entails, amongst others, the development of the Gamification Tools and the Platform Design. The gathering of the project partners is very important and ensures close collaboration. The third meeting is already planned for March 2017 in Berlin.
IPEC website online in multiple languages!

Everything you need to know about Project IPEC can be found on our project website. It provides you with information about the project, the partners and the Erasmus+ programme. It also contains a blog with news items about the project. If you want to get involved in the project or get into contact with one of the national partners in Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, Cyprus, Greece or Italy, please have a look at the contact details of the partners that are published on the website. Last week the website was launched in multiple languages: English, Dutch, Greek, German and Italian. Take a look!