

PaintingSkillsAcademy Newsletter

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The PaintingSkillsAcademy (PSA) takes up the current challenges of European craft using the example of the Painters in the construction sector, which are increasingly important for acting on the European labour market for (painter) craftsmen as well and which have a massive impact on the competitiveness and future viability of companies. The aim of the PSA is to implement vocational training for the European painting trade, based on the challenges and requirements of the European market.



2.

Courses are described that contain an explanation of how the results can be achieved. The recognition of prior learning (RPL) and the correct allocation to level 1-6 of the EQF is carried out with the help of transparent assessment mechanisms.

1.

PSA develops qualification offers and shows qualification opportunities that are ultimately transferable to other sectors. Quality standards and units of learning outcomes at level 1-6 of the EQF (European Qualifications Framework) are described.

3.

The implementation of a high quality standard with regard to the qualification offers is formulated in the specific school regulations, compliance with which is monitored by an expert committee of the umbrella organization UNIEP. It goes without saying that all relevant national regulations are observed and complied with.



Kick-off meeting in Dresden, 16th-18th December 2019

The PSA gathers 23 partners from 13 European countries, including VET providers for the painting trade and sectoral associations on European and national level, supported by competent bodies and partners for scientific support and monitoring.



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PSA IN CORONA TIMES

The PaintingSkillsAcademy was also surprised by the Corona pandemic in March 2020. Not only the planned meetings of project's partners had to be cancelled at short notice. Many partner institutions, including the SBG, as the project coordinator itself, were suddenly closed and had to reorganize under the new conditions. In particular, sectoral associations and teaching & training staff of the educational institutions involved were busy and otherwise bound by the consequences of lockdowns and reopening. The SBG has only been working in normal mode again since September 2020. When the second lockdown began, everyone was better prepared.



All communication structures were in place, and partners restarted working on making up for the delays that had arisen.

It remained, anyway, a difficult time. For the Painters, direct contact and personal exchange when working together is extremely important. We are in a very large project and not all partners are involved in all tasks. At a distance, it is therefore difficult to always meet the expectations of all partners. Meetings are still only held online, but we hope that real meetings will return soon!



NEED TO KNOW

MAKING DIFFERENCES VISIBLE TOGETHER - THE PATH TO A QUALIFICATION PORTFOLIO FOR THE EUROPEAN PAINTING TRADE

The qualification portfolio forms the core of the PaintingSkillsAcademy. How was it made?

First, the documents from the PaintingSkillsNetwork (level 3 and 4) and EUROPA-MEISTER (level 6) projects were checked and updated for Germany. These basic documents were then sent to the partners so that they can incorporate corrections, additions, and information on the current national regulations. The national final versions (portfolio for each partner) could be created based on the partner feedback. This was where it got particularly difficult! The tasks and activities of Painters in Europe are fundamentally very similar. Due to the different education and training systems and NQF-EQF assignments, however, there are clear differences in the details. In addition, the transfer of technical terms between different languages is another stumbling block.

The next step was to compare the national learning outcomes at the different levels. PSA project's aim is to make national differences recognizable, not a common European version in the sense of a lowest common denominator! With this direct comparison, actual similarities and differences could be determined. Finally, there are "super matrices" for all units of the qualification portfolios at each EQF level, which are so large and extensive that we and our partners are already thinking about how to simplify the presentation ...

It required a tremendous effort, but it was worth it because only a direct comparison of detailed content can make recognition by experts in the painting trade possible.

NICE TO KNOW

AR AND VR FOR PAINTERS



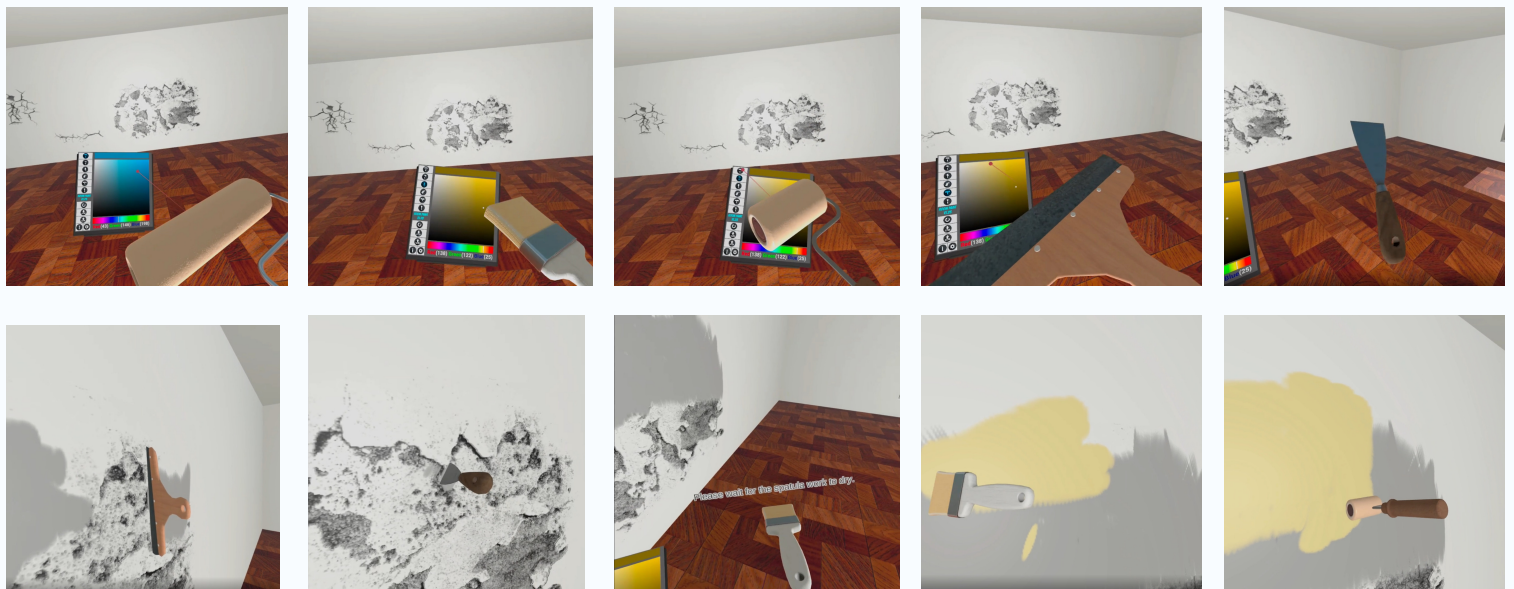
In December 2020 and January 2021, SBG organized several webinars to discuss and identify possible applications of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) in practical training.

Together with the project partners and interested Painters, relevant scenarios were identified with the aim to prepare, carry out, and evaluate practical relevant working tasks.

The discussed scenarios involved:

- Real-time and step-by-step instruction (AR) to carry out one or more tasks (AR)
- Working with Airless (AR)
- Virtual construction site (VR) for training Health and Safety, finding errors, and solving defects.

SBG is currently developing the didactic guidelines for preparing the pedagogical sound application of AR/VR. This will be followed by the development, testing and evaluation of the identified AR and VR scenarios.



The pictures above represent the virtual reality environment for painting training, in particular the wall preparation and painting techniques with different tools such as rollers and spatula as well the selection of all RGB colours for painting in virtual reality.



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PSA INQUIRY ON THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN PROMOTING THE PAINTING PROFESSION

In the framework of the Dissemination activities, a survey has been conducted in order to analyse the role played by social media in the promotion of the Painting and Decorating profession, especially by gathering opinions on how to reach and inform new generations attracting them to the sector. The questionnaire has been designed and distributed in 7 different languages (English, German, French, Italian, Czech, Dutch, and Slovenian) to reach a wider public. The interesting results achieved through the survey allowed to analyse which are the most used social media in the Painting and Decorating sector according to the different age groups involved in the survey. From up to 100 respondents, it emerged that the most used social media for our sample is Facebook, immediately followed by Instagram. However, it must be kept in mind that most of the interviewers belongs to the age group of "41+". For this reason, it was interesting to analyse these results by age group to compare the most used Social Media Platform among younger and older people. It resulted that the younger groups (under 18, 18-24 and 25-30) prefer Instagram while the use of Facebook increases in the 2 older groups (31-40 and over 40).



Discover more and download the Factsheet with the main infographics on the survey's results [here!](#)

At the same time, we collected opinions on which could be the best social media platform for promoting the profession at its best and in this situation the majority identify Instagram as the social media with the best potential in the promotion of the sector, since it is a very visual platform allowing to share attractive photos and videos.

Several interesting suggestions have been given by the participants of the survey on how social media can contribute to attracting young people to the Painting and Decorating profession. Most of them focuses on the visual representation of the profession through video and picture of painters at work. A significant role is also played by the link between schools and labour market and the organisation of events such as young championships.

We believe that this analysis will be useful for improving the image of the profession and at the same time attracting the youngest generations.



NEXT EVENTS:

11.06.2021 - Premier Trophy Awards Apprentice Competition in Bournemouth and Poole College (UK)

15.06.2021 - Apprentice Paperhanger of the Year in Doncaster (UK)

28.06.2021 - DIGI4VET project Virtual closing event

12-13.08.2021 - International conference on digitization and technological development for the future of the painting, decorating enterprises in Kecskemét (HU)

24-25.09.2021 - EuroSkills in Graz (AT)

09.2021 or 10.2021 - PSA partners face-to-face project meeting

15.10.2021 - UpsPaint project final conference in Luxembourg

15.10.2021 - UNIEP General Assembly in Luxembourg



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