

Press Release

Paris, 22 February 2010

PlaNNet Finance is finalizing with its partners the Teaching Tutoring T2 project, which will be tested by microfinance practitioners in March 2010.

PlaNNet Finance, an international non-profit organization, with the mission to alleviate poverty through the development of microfinance, the **Università degli Studi G. Marconi** of Rome, (Prime Contractor), **Microfinance Centre** in Poland and **Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia** in Spain are finalizing the **T2 Teaching Tutoring** project, a new e-learning tool for the microfinance sector, which offers audio lessons together with an intelligent assessment path helping teachers to customize their face to face sessions according to students' needs.

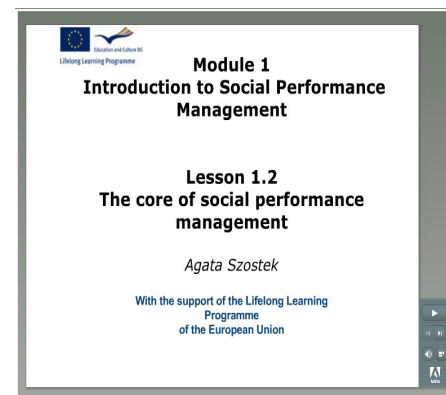
Last December in Warsaw, the T2 tutors gathered for a two day meeting with the aim of defining the course testing phase. During the meeting USGM has provided an overview of the overall architecture of the whole system. Tutors had the chance to be trained on the platform functioning as well as on the organization and management of the testing activity.

T2 external testing phase involves about ten microfinance players (from France, Poland and Italy) who will test both the online course and the intelligent assessment path in order to have an external technological and methodological evaluation. The T2 face-to-face sessions will be constructed according to the data gathered from the intelligent assessment tool. This would give teachers the chance to have meaningful information on students' activities and tailor their F2F sessions according to that.

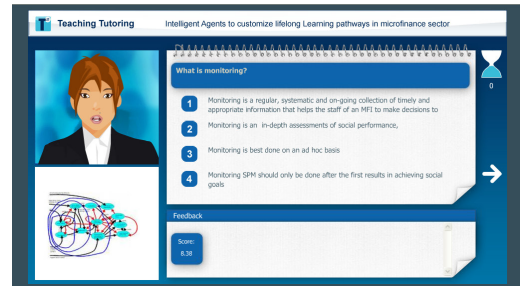
The added-value of this e-learning course is the intelligent agent, which behaves as a real teacher interacting with the trainees and giving them feedback. IAs have their own voice and facial expressions and demonstrate skills. They ask personalized questions to the students and answer their questions according to previous students' answers: if the student gives a wrong answer, the virtual advises the student to study more thoroughly one chapter or another and selects the following questions according to previous feedback.

Prepared by Agata Szostek, (a microfinance expert from MFC Poland), this course is based on the recommendations for Social Performance Management in Microfinance.

- Module 1: Introduction to Social Performance Management (SPM)
- Module 2: Aligning strategy for SPM
- Module 3: Strengthening information systems for SPM
- Module 4: Aligning management systems to support SPM
- Module 5: Quality audit tool for managing social performance (QAT)
- Module 6: Social Performance standards report



Each module will be followed by an intelligent evaluation path.



It is only if the learner succeeds in the evaluation path given by his virtual tutor that he will be “authorized” to start the next module.



The project's partners have also the mission to promote this tool in international events. The Università Degli Studi G.Marconi presented the project during the Online Educa Berlin conference, last December, and Didier Krumm, manager of the Education programme at PlaNet Finance, will present it at the second World Summit on “Microfinance and New Technologies, in Marrakech (Morocco).

For more information:

Web site: <http://www.t2project.eu/t2/>

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The project's partners are:



Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi
TELEMATICA



PlaNet Finance
Advisory Services



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About PlaNet Finance

PlaNet Finance is an international non-profit organization with the mission to alleviate poverty through the development of microfinance, therefore increasing the unbanked and underbanked's access to financial services. Based in Paris, PlaNet Finance's international network is active in close to 80 countries around the world.

www.planetfinancegroup.org

Università degli Studi G. Marconi: www.unimarconi.it

Microfinance center (MFC) : www.mfc.org.pl

Universidad Nacional de educación a distancia (UNED): www.uned.es