INNOVATIVE SAFETY MANAGEMENT TRAINING THROUGH E-LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

European construction industry is responsible for over 800,000 accidents and 1,200 fatalities each year. There is a compelling need for addressing health and safety training with innovative methods including e-learning tools. This paper reports the progress in an ongoing Socrates Minerva project that aims to create an instructional design framework for virtual classes to deliver health and safety training. The research is based on the theory of multiple intelligences (MI) which postulates that there are several independent ability areas that individuals possess. Translating MI principles from traditional classroom into an e-learning environment represents a new and challenging initiative. Pilot virtual classes that are being developed by teams from five different countries focus on ‘falls from heights’ which constitute around 40 per cent of fatalities in the European construction industry. The principal beneficiaries are construction personnel with direct line responsibility for health and safety on construction projects, staff from the institutions participating in the project, teaching staff at higher level institutes outside of participation institutions and researchers in the construction field. Professional and regulatory bodies charged with ensuring health and safety standards and training will also benefit from the project.

Keywords: e-learning, virtual class, multiple intelligences, health and safety, falls from heights

INTRODUCTION

Construction industry is a focal point for OHS (occupational health and safety) policy makers because it is labour-intensive and hazardous as evidenced by over 800,000 accidents and 1,200 fatalities each year in Europe, resulting in deaths, temporary and