WH_T the H_CK?!

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WHAT THE HACK?!
Creating more opportunities for young people in safe cyber space

Find out more on www.what-the-hack.eu and www.what2hack.eu

IN THIS ISSUE

1. KEEPING UP WITH OUR WHAT THE HACK?! PROJECT

The fifth issue of What the Hack?! Newsletter contains the latest news on the project. What the Hack is a KA202 project that brings together partners and experts from the Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia and Spain.

The Project aims primarily at youngsters inside AND outside of VET (NEETS). It is open to digitally aware youngsters, gamers, school lovers, the autism spectrum and young people who miss a challenge in their current education.

In addition, the project targets VET teachers, staff and ICT professionals as it actively involves ICT professionals in education.

Covid-19 has delayed the project considerably but we are happy that the restrictions were lifted for a second time in spring and we were able to hold our first training week with students of the partner countries in Pärnu in May.

Hopefully, Covid19 will be history and we are very much looking forward to some exciting activities such as the training week in Spain in September and possibly Belgium in November. Also two more Transnational partners meetings will take place, one in September in Spain and the final one in the Netherlands in December.

2. FIRST TRAINING ACTIVITY WEEK – PÄRNU, ESTONIA 9 – 13 MAY, 2022 (1)

The very first training activity week (TA1) for students finally happened! Initially it was planned to happen exactly 2 years ago, but as we all know, the world was struck by an unforeseen event that halted all international travel and immobilized a lot of intended project activities. Training participants included students from the Netherlands (10), Spain (10), Estonia (10) and Belgium (6). . The students were accompanied by their schools teachers and/or international project coordinators.

The program on the first day consisted of getting to know the Pärnumaa Vociational Education Centre, each other and developing a team spirit among everyone by having some fun at the same time. Students loved the campus tour where they were shown the different specialties offered by the center; lunch prepared by the students in the cafeteria, team building and social games in the auditorium helped them bond with each other and be ready for a successful training week in Estonia.

On the second day of our training week students learned about cybersafety, cybersecurity and ethical hacking. After explaining a few key concepts students skills were accessed through some playful exercises on the Linux command line, which is the first and foremost tool for an ethical hacker and/or penetration tester. This assessment showed that everyone had solid basis on IT, and that we can proceed with more complex topics and exercises.

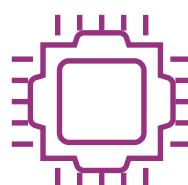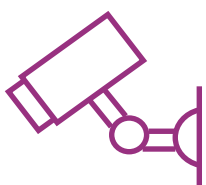Various topics in ethical hacking were covered like:
- Information Gathering
- Network Mapping
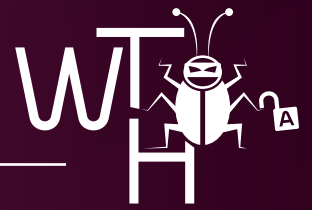- Network Forensics
- Web Security
- Injection Attacks

Together with the concepts of Cryptography and Steganography.
The exercises were conducted on the cybersecurity training platform of RangeForce.
More info about them:
https://www.rangeforce.com/

2. FIRST TRAINING ACTIVITY WEEK – PÄRNU, ESTONIA 9 – 13 MAY, 2022 (2)

Capture The Flag competition was the highlight of the last day of the training week. It was very intense and provided the students with a fun way to test their skills.

The week was intense and it went much faster that they all had imagined but at the same time it was a great start and made them look forward to the coming training week in San Sebastian where apart from working hard   hopefully, they will be able to enjoy the water activities it offers.
(possibly photo of San Sebastian)

The farewell party took place at a bowling venue :)
(photo of the bowling place)

One very interesting part of the training week were the visits to companies such as:
Malwarebytes - that specializes in protecting home computers, smartphones, and companies from malware and other threats.
https://www.malwarebytes.com/

k-space - which provides a fabrication laboratory, server hosting, retro computing and a co-working space. Students were given an overview on how they got started, what are their day-to-day activities are, how have they been sustainable (even in the pandemic), and a tour on the premises.
https://www.k-space.ee/

TalTech – is an IT College with Bachelor level in Cyber Security Engineering program. A second year student of the program shared her experience about studying at TalTech and the program.

It was a very interesting discussion with a lot of questions from the students
https://taltech.ee/en/cyber-bsc
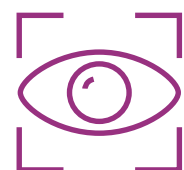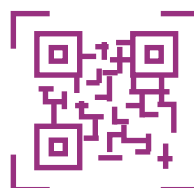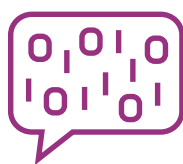
3. EVALUATION TA1 ESTONIA CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results show that the first physical training week in Estonia was of good quality and very useful to the participants. It provided relevant knowledge, competences and attitudes with regards to the ICT world of work. It also boosted students personal and intercultural development.

We can conclude that this training week met the expectations and contributed to the project goals and objectives. The variation of activities (both professional and personal) worked well for the respondents.

Even though the overall results show that the participants were very satisfied, it is to be noted that a few of them would have preferred longer hours on ethical hacking as they are very keen on learning more about this topic, and some students indicated that the training did not entirely cover the topics they expected.

We conclude that perhaps further questioning ought to be done to the students in order to improve their future training weeks such as:
- Would they prefer more hand-on training days?
- Were the topics covered in TA1 as interesting as they had expected them to be?

4. DISSEMINATION EVENTS

Brussels, Belgium

On the 25th of April, ICT students from GO! Technisch Atheneum Zavelenberg presented the WHAT THE HACK!? Project to Erasmushogeschool, Brussels. This was folled by a White Hat Hacking workshop by Steve Weermaels.

Bilbao, Spain

Cebanc - Erasmus + European Projects Dissemination Day

The What the Hack?! project was presented at the Erasmus+ European Conference, held at the Iberdrola Tower in Bilbao, which was attended by around 150 people of 32 Basque VET centres. They presented the innovation projects they are developing during the 2021-2022 academic year, in collaboration with Vocational Training centres from other European countries, within the European Erasmus+ KA2 program. Basque vocational training centres are participating in 97 European innovation projects this academic year, under the coordination of Tknika, the Basque VET Applied Research Centre. This figure highlights that the Basque Country is very active in Europe.

The Basque Government's Deputy Minister for Vocational Training, Jorge Arévalo, who took part in the event, emphasized the importance of these projects in affirming once again that the Basque Country is already a reference in the field of innovation and research in the European Community.

5. INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS (1)

IO3

WHAT THE HACK?! Blended training program for Hack-Lab coaches has been completed and released in a beautiful layout designed by our partner FANAAD.

This training program is for ICT professionals who want to become Hack-Lab coaches. A Hack-Lab coach teaches youth, who are interested in IT, at a Hack-Lab, which is an inclusive co-learning space for digitally aware youngsters, gamers, school leavers, the autism spectrum and young people who miss a challenge in their current education. This training program will prepare professionals from the ICT industry with a pedagogical foundation and assist them to engage in non-formal education.

The training program includes study materials on the following modules:
- Ethical Hacking
- Communication
- Learning Environment
- Learning Difficulties
- Motivation
- Teaching Methods
- Group Management
- Assessment and Feedback
- Lifelong Learning

5. INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS (2)

The program can be freely separated into a schedule that is suitable for the learner. For example, it could be divided into 1 module per week or day, so that the learner can focus on practicing the learning material of one module in doing classes and coaching the youngsters in Hack-Labs.
In total it takes an estimated 4 hours to work thoughtfully. With the completion of the Blended training program for Hack-Lab coaches, the participant (future Hack-Lab coach) will be better able to:
- understand the principles of ethical hacking and the laws associated with cybercrime;
- communicate, present and express oneself clearly;
- understand the different factors of a learning environment and learning difficulties;
- understand the challenges and functioning of a multicultural learning environment;
- have a tolerant and ethical attitude in creating equal opportunities and valuing different characteristic features of students in inclusive education and teamwork;
- create and maintain a learning environment that supports coaching and learning;
- handle difficult social situations ethically;
- understand the importance of motivation and motivate students, considering the different characteristic features of students;
- possess efficient teaching methods, considering the different levels of experience and haracteristic features of students;
- apply methods of supportive feedbacking and assessment;
- develop positive attitude and independent learning skills in students;
- reflect and be ready for professional development and lifelong learning.

5. INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS (3)

IO4

We've been working with students of Friesland College in Heerenveen to get the online community (website) up and running and hopefully on Week 27 the site will be live. In the last months we've tried to get our online and offline communication aligned, one look and feel for all the communication channels. We still have to test some parts of the website and also our social communication. Instagram and linked-in will be used as social media channels.

The site is made by using HTML, CSS and PHP. It will be supported by tailwind which will make it easy for all the users to upload content. A newly built protection wall will protect the website.
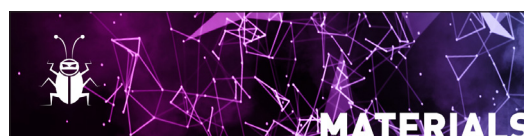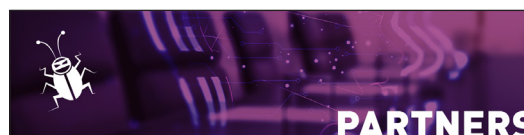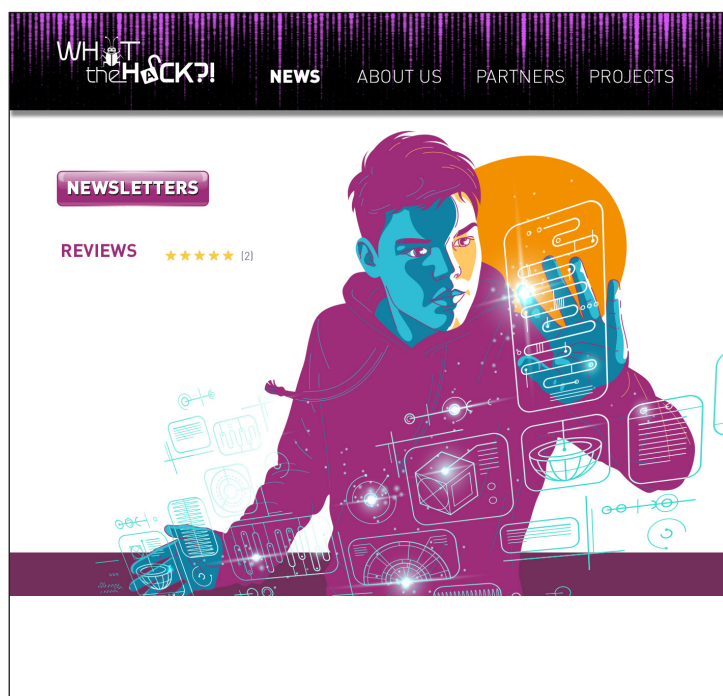
6. COMING EVENTS

As much as we love working on What the Hack?! project it will come to an end by the end of December of this year but before that we are very much looking forward to some very important activities, meetings and multiplier events.

We have already started organizing our second Training Activity (TA2) which will take place in Donostia – San Sebastian from 26th to 30th September 2022, and our third Transnational Meeting that will take place also in Donostia – San Sebastian on 26th & 27th September, 2022.

What the Hack?! Project team wishes you a wonderful, relaxing and cyber safe summer to everyone!!

PARTNERS

Four regions participate in the WHAT THE HACK?! Project. They all share the ambition to make the cyber world a place of safety and opportunity for young people inside and outside VET. All four regional consortiums include a VET institution and an ICT regional stakeholder.

The following are the project partners:

P1   Friesland College - D'Drive - NL
P2   Learning Hub Friesland Foundation - NL
P3   Foundation for Cybersafety Northern Netherlands - NL
P4   GO! Technisch Atheneum Zavelenberg - BE
P5   Cebanc – ES
P6   Fanaad - NL
P7   Pärnumaa Vocational Education Centre - EE
P8   Information Technology Foundation for Education (HITSA) - EE