

## **WELCOME TO DESIGNTRAIN CONGRESS INTRODUCTION TO DESIGNTRAIN PROJECT**

### **DESIGNTRAIN PROJECT;**

The DESIGNTRAIN Project; “Training Tools for Developing Design Education” is supported by European Commission, Leonardo da Vinci Programme, second phase; 2000-2006.

The DESIGNTRAIN Congress: Trailer I: “Guidance in/for Design Training” was organized in the content of DESIGNTRAIN Project. The second congress will be organized in the next spring, in The Netherlands.

### **THE PROJECT’S IDEA;**

The students in the process of preparation for university seriously worry whether their personal skills are sufficient for a full success in design education or not. It is a fact that present pre-university education system can not prepare students with required properties for design education, in this sense, it is difficult to adapt the design education based on some basic concepts as “to perceive”, “to understand”, and “to express” to the student profile, grown up in this education system. Students grown up in the classic education system are not trained with such abilities. In the light of these truths, the aim of the project proposal is to form two stages developing in a direction to the obtained results and the analysis of the methods and approaches of the profession education of the design schools training people as architects, interior designers, and regional or urban planners.

The core of the project idea is based on the adaptation problems experienced by the students/design students who have studied in the present education system, when they focus on the process of design. The project has double goals and is composed of two stages thereof. The goal of the first stage is to test and develop skills for the pro-professions and the goal of the second stage is to orient design students to design thinking and improve their problem solving capacities by way of conducive exercises. The far-reaching goal of the project is to render the process of design education feasible and economic in terms of using human resources.

Stage I: “Vocational Guidance”: “Self-evaluation Unit”, which is planned to be a self-evaluation examination and which is supposed to be administrated to the users in the electronic settings by e-learning systems,

aims to evaluate the responses of the users to design-related concepts and to determine their tendency for design professions.

Stage II: “Educational Guidance”: “Supportive Unit”, which is planned as a supporting module in the process of design education, aims to make retrieval of information related to design and design concepts, fast and easy for the students of design.

### **THE GUIDANCE OF DESIGNTRAIN PROJECT;**

By means of Vocational Guidance: Self-evaluation Unit, the documents, aiming to enhance the consciousness for design education, will be prepared to guide the secondary and high school students, who wish to continue with professional education. In this way, the secondary and high school students will be assisted in choosing their professions. In addition to these objectives, the Vocational Guidance will help teachers in secondary and high schools or in unions of private preparation and training courses, in guiding their students for university education, as “vocational guides”.

By means of Educational Guidance: Supportive Unit, which is considered as a supporting module in the process of design education, retrieval of information related to design and design concepts will be made accessible and user-friendly for design students.

The target groups of the project are official or non-official associates preparing students for universities, the students of this associates as secondary and high school students (the users of the Vocational Guidance: Self-evaluation Unit), the design students, and the teachers, trainers of design schools (the users of Educational Guidance: Supportive Unit). All the professions related to design studies, professional unions, and the members of these unions can benefit from this project results.

### **DESIGNTRAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES;**

Designtrain project started on 10 October 2006.

The whole activities during the DESIGNTRAIN Project duration are:

“Designtrain Meeting I: Trailer Turkey” was held on 27-29 November 2006, in Trabzon, Turkey.

“Designtrain Meeting II: Trailer Germany” was held on 07-09.March.2007, in Bochum, Germany.

“Designtrain Congress I: Trailer The Netherlands”: “Guidance in/for Design Training” is now holding on 10-12 May 2007, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

“Designtrain Meeting III and IV: Trailer Italy” will be held on 04-06 July 2007, and on 02-04 April 2008, in Milan, Italy.

“Designtrain Congress II: Trailer The Netherlands”: will be held on the following May 2008, in The Netherlands.

“Designtrain Meeting V: Trailer Turkey”; the Final Meeting will be held on 02-04 July 2008, in Trabzon, Turkey.

There will be participated to 2 Valorization Conferences and 2 Thematic Seminars within the DESIGNTRAIN project process.

### **DESIGNTRAIN PROJECT PARTNERS;**

In the content of the project, to set up partnerships with design education/educational sectors and information technology firms is aimed to cooperate as a dominated factor. The criteria in selecting the partner countries and partners have been considered according to their abilities on design education, their experiment, capacity and different tradition on design education in their region and the original characteristics which is related to their geographical situations. The functions of information technology firms are for supporting the transportation of information of the results of this project's process to electronic tools and for disseminating.

The project comprises the concepts of “design”, “education”, “design education”, “e-learning systems”. These concepts have been effective on the selection of the partners. Moreover, the educational associations and information technology firms, for having the characteristics of including these concepts in their structure as a main factor, have been selected for transnational cooperation in this project.

On the other hand, it is a necessity to cooperate with a partner studying on the pre-university education and having the ability of disseminating the products to the target groups for the first stage of the project (Vocational Guidance: Self-evaluation Unit). In national educational system, P7 (TR-OZDEBIR) is selected because of these reasons, and its approval responsibility in transmitting the products which will be produced by other partners from education sector P1(TR-KTU); Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Architecture-Turkey (promoter/coordinator) / P2

(DE-FB); Fachhochschule Bochum, University of Applied Sciences, Department of Architecture-Germany / P3 (IT-PMD); Politecnico Di Milano, Department of Architecture and Planning-Italy / P6 (TR-GU); Gazi University, Department of Architecture-Turkey) to the target group. P4 (NL-ELIA); European League of the Institutes of the Arts will take the same role in European educational system.

The second stage (Educational Guidance: Supportive Unit), for focusing on design education system, put forwards the importance in structuring the partnership more from universities, which train design education. The observations, surveys and analysis, for obtaining the products will be detailed in above-mentioned design education schools. In this aim, depending on the experience of P4 (NL-ELIA), organizing workshops and congresses, publishing the results of these discussions, coordinating the design education schools and disseminating the products of the project will be the functions of this partner.

The role of the other partner P8 (TR-SOMDATA) is visualising the process and the products for the two stages of the project, which will be planned by all the partners, in the determined duration.

Anatole Consulting Ltd. from the United Kingdom; P5 (UK-ACL), with its immense experience and expertise on websites and network systems and graphic communications is chosen as an external assessor of the project.

P9 (TR-MONE); The Ministry of National Education will take active roles in valorisation activities for the studies related to Vocational Guidance (Self-evaluation Unit), and P10 (TR-COHE); The Council of Higher Education will take the same roles for the Educational Guidance (Supportive Unit), because of their positions and functions.

## **PRODUCTS;**

The final products will be transmitted to the electronic settings (websites, CD-Roms and handbooks) for easy access and full effectiveness besides being visual and written. The products will be presented to the institutions and companies for evaluation both at national and international levels. The products are planned to be used as guidelines of training and materials of education in design schools in the country of project proposal and in other countries as well because the project can enable the design students to use a common medium of expression due to transferable

principles. Because these products will contain the common teaching methods, models and approaches.

For more information please see DESIGNTRAIN Project web site:  
[www.designtrain-ldv.com](http://www.designtrain-ldv.com)