

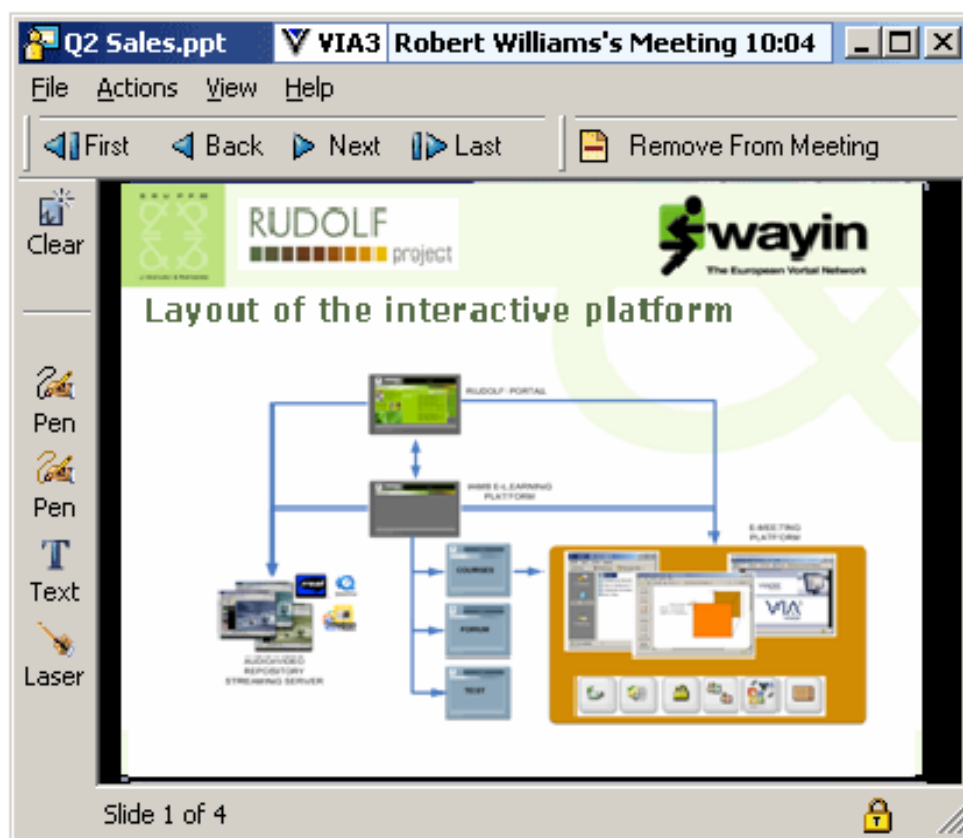
Projekt. Nr. 2730

Titel of the Project :

## RUDOLF Projekt

EU-Programme Leonardo da Vinci, Education and Culture

### A Training Model for Organic Agriculture on an Interactive Platform



[www.rudolfproject.org](http://www.rudolfproject.org)

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WAYIN NET – E-Business Company - Italy
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## SUMMARY

The **RUDOLF Project** is a Pilot project whose aim is the creation of a training model that can be applied to organic farming. The Project has been developed by a broad partnership that is transnational (nine European states) and multi-sector (universities, social partners, businesses and local institutions) for the development of new expertise and methods for ongoing training in the context of a renewed interest in vocational training from business and production employers.

The project is based on a number of assumptions in relation to the development and optimal use of human resources. The ability to renew and to innovate has been shown to be fundamental to the process of social and economic development.

This ability is based not only on technological innovation, but on the production of knowledge and competence, and on making these widely accessible. From this point of view, vocational training becomes a strategic instrument for connecting business and labour, including both those who are seeking employment and those who are already employed and need to update their skills. The aim of the project is to contribute to the construction of a system of Ongoing Training that can become a clear and stable frame of reference for the training, reskilling and retraining needs of individuals, groups and companies. In order to create a high level, highly specialized training tool, we have brought together partners from the world of production (SME); suppliers of training needs; providers of the economic and technological elements for the understanding and analysis of market changes and needs; partners from the academic world, for their scientific and technical skills which can be used to link the worlds of education and work; the social partners who play a key role in linking universities and business as promoters/suppliers of training opportunities.

The Rudolf Project has identified in the organic farming sector a significant area of application for achieving the aims outlined above. The need to develop more specialized training systems in the area of organic and biodynamic farming has a dual motivation: first, the organic sector, which for some time now has been growing in many European countries encouraged by measures aimed at supporting sustainable development, protecting the environment and improving food safety, needs not only a more rigorous definition from the cultural, scientific, legal and institutional points of view (particularly in certain European regions such as the Mediterranean, and eastern European countries) but also adaptation to its professional status and the definition of specific roles and abilities; and second, it is clear that, while the importance of the organic sector has been accepted by the private and public education systems, the training programmes that have been proposed are often too general or too restricted, lack inter-disciplinary content, and are put together according to traditional criteria and methodologies that are sometimes not adapted to the demands and needs of the market.

The training model will be constructed according to a holistic approach which will allow the training components not to be split up - an improvement on sector-based training approaches - and enabling the organic farming system to be taken as a whole, bringing together its functions, relations, ways of working, and changes. A preliminary enquiry among the partners has identified potential training areas (to be tested and evaluated) and cross-sectional areas among which the relations have to be identified (cause and effect, feedback, etc.) The application and dissemination of the project will make use of the technologies of interactive communication, multi-media and distance learning. These technologies are particularly suitable for the treatment and dissemination of information, being widespread, expandable and flexible. In addition, the network principle on which they are based encourages the interaction (or networking) of different types of training providers; enables the producer and the consumer of the training service to network, so that the training programme can be planned and delivered cooperatively; and finally allows the integration of training experiences taking place in different places and at different times, thus linking virtually the world of training, the world of work and the territorial context.

R. Mayer, 31. Jänner 2006.