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**Project Title** EASIER: European Knowledge Alliance for Innovative education of  
Surgical and Interventional Skills

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## D8.1. PROJECT PRESENTATION AND PRESS RELEASE

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## Version control

Version	Date	Comment
01	29/01/2018	First draft
02		
03		
04		

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## Summary

This deliverable includes the project presentation, which was first presented for the Consortium on the virtual kick off meeting (14<sup>th</sup> November 2017), and a press release for the EASIER project.

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## 1. Project presentation

The following Powerpoint slide constitutes the project presentation. The presentation was first presented for the Consortium at the Virtual Kick Off meeting, which took place the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Double click on the document to start the presentation.



The presentation will also be made available as a separate file.

## 2. Press release

In the following page, the EASIER press release is included.



## SAFER SURGERIES THROUGH BETTER TRAINING

### PRESS RELEASE

Madrid, February 2018

**Education of surgical and interventional professionals is nowadays a key challenge in European Healthcare systems.** On the one hand, patient safety concerns toward surgical errors increase the pressure on the preparation of new professionals. On the other, the Working Time Directive imposes constraints on the time that residents and mentors can devote to in-site training. In the search of new and better training paradigms, technology can play an important role.

Nowadays, Information and Communication Technologies (**ICT**) are used as an aid to teach and assess the different skills involved in being a good surgeon. Virtual reality simulators and serious games, combined with tracking technologies, provide the means for training technical and procedural skills in patient-free environments. E-learning platforms allow residents to study at their leisure the cognitive and decision-making competences required of surgical professionals. Training centres and hospitals are integrating technology enhanced learning (TEL) into their learning programmes; however, there are no general guidelines on their incorporation and use, being highly dependent on the centres' economical possibilities and the funders' choices rather than on their pedagogical value. This diversity in fact reflects a larger issue: **the lack of a common European pedagogical framework for learning and accrediting surgical and interventional skills.** As a consequence, it is up to each country to set curricular and competency standards, which on the long run can be a hindrance to professional's mobility across the EU.

EASIER is a unique Erasmus+ knowledge alliance involving higher education institutions and companies with leading partners in their respective fields that will, for the first time, bring together different training technologies to provide a multi-skills learning experience for surgical and interventional education. **By 2020, EASIER will have developed and validated an innovative solution for teaching and learning technical and nontechnical skills based on (TEL).** The solution will integrate TEL assets (virtual reality, augmented video, augmented box trainers, etc.), providing residents and mentors with a learning management system to programme training activities, have access to ubiquitous learning and monitor progress on their learning experience.

Through integration of different technologies, learners will have access to a comprehensive record of achievements and outcomes on both technical and nontechnical skills linked to any course taken. The solution will be grounded on a previously validated learning framework, based on the pedagogical model developed in Lifelong Learning Project MISTELA.

Through its goals, **EASIER will reach the whole EU surgical community to set the basis for a strategy on a common TEL-based programme offering structured learning and assessment.** Moreover, through the cooperation with the main actors of the field, its aim will be to help standardize training across the continent, favouring mobility of professionals as well as the exchange and co-creation of knowledge in the field.