

## Towards a European qualification for Solid Waste Facilities' Managers - SWFM-QF

The SWFM-QF project has been funded in the framework of Lifelong Learning Programme under the action of LEONARDO DA VINCI Multilateral Projects for Development of innovation. (Grant Agreement reference no 2012-3351/001-001 signed on 12/09/2012).

### SWFM-QF partners:

-  [SIGMA Consultants Ltd. \(Sigma\)](#)
-  [Hellenic Federation of Environmental Protection Companies \(PASEPPE\)](#)
-  [Saxon Education Company for Environmental Protection and Chemical Occupations Dresden Ltd. \(SBG-DD\)](#)
-  [Research Institute for Vocational Education & Training \(F-BB\)](#)
-  [SINERGIE Società Consortile a responsabilità limitata \(SINERGIE\)](#)
-  [Szent Istvan University \(SZIE\)](#)
-  [Association of Environmental Enterprises \(KSZGYSZ\)](#)
-  [Trust Waste Management Limited \(TWML\)](#)
-  [Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute \(IEP-NRI\)](#)
-  [Polish Chamber of Commerce \(PCC\)](#)
-  [Kaunas University of Technology - Institute of Environmental Engineering \(KTU- APINI\)](#)
-  [Alytus Region Waste Management Center \(ARWMC\)](#)
-  [Bulgarian Industrial Association \(BIA\)](#)



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## Towards a European qualification for Solid Waste Facilities' Managers - SWFM-QF

### 1. SWFM-QF project description

This new Leonardo Da Vinci project will provide a mechanism through which waste management vocational training awards will be benchmarked across Europe taking cognisance of the different stages of evolution in the diversity of EU member states relative to vocational training in the waste management industry.

This will be achieved through an assessment of the existing situation in each of the project partner's states and then a comparison of these approaches with a view to developing a best practice approach to a waste management industry award for waste managers taking cognisance of the scope of waste management activities in both the hazardous and non-hazardous waste management sectors.

### 2. Waste management sector

Waste is an issue that affects us all. We all produce waste: on average, each of the 500 million people living in the EU throws away around half a tonne of household rubbish every year. This is on top of huge amounts of waste generated from activities such as manufacturing (360 million tonnes) and construction (900 million tonnes), while water supply and energy production

generate another 95 million tonnes. Altogether, the European Union produces up to 3 billion tonnes of waste every year<sup>1</sup>.

The amount of waste we are creating is increasing and the nature of waste itself is changing, partly due to the dramatic rise in the use of hi-tech products. This means waste now contains an increasingly complex mix of materials, including plastics, precious metals and hazardous materials that are difficult to deal with safely.

EU waste management policies aim to reduce the environmental and health impacts of waste and improve Europe's resource efficiency. The long-term goal is to turn Europe into a recycling society, avoiding waste and using unavoidable waste as a resource wherever possible.

Within the 27 member states of Europe there are around 500,000 person employed in the waste management industry and these employees are distributed through a network of around 6000 waste management sites across the continent.

As the waste production trend in Europe continues to grow there will be a continued need to ensure that a skilled work force is



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available and ready to effectively play a role in these evolving opportunities in the waste management sector.

This re-educating of the existing workforce and the introduction of new members to augment the existing numbers will need new vocational training programmes to facilitate on the job training in new working practices and new technology applications in the industry.

It is imperative therefore that new vocational training programmes are part of the overarching European Credit and Qualification Framework (EQF) in order that Europe has an extremely competitive and mobile workforce to respond to these new developments in the waste industry.

This will need a robust strategy which ensures that industry and the education authorities are jointly developing national occupational standards in direct response to industry needs and that such national occupational standards are the basis for vocational training awards in line with the levels of the EQF.

### 3. Launch of SWFM-QF website

SWFM-QF project website ([http://www.swfm-qf.eu](http://www.swfm-<u>qf</u>.eu)) will be officially launched in January 2013. A full description of the project and the consortium partners will be accessed via the Website. SWFM-QF website will be regularly updated on project progress, results and deliverables. It will also be translated in all participating countries languages.

### 4. National Networks

To ensure effective implementation of the project activities, to increase value-added and to sustain impact of the project beyond its lifetime, a multi-national network consisting of representatives of all the project's short and long term target groups (SWFM-QF Network) will be established.

SWFM-QF partners will identify the indirect target groups, along with the short-term stakeholders, in their countries. On the basis of this research, national networks will be created in each participating country. Furthermore, the partnership will identify key

organisations and networks at European level through which project results can be transferred.

The members of the network will be the core recipients of the project's activities and outputs. Additionally, they will be asked to participate to the on-line internal evaluation process for the validation of the project products. The members of the eight national networks will be representatives of all stakeholders' target groups, i.e. direct beneficiaries like vocational training providers and potential learners, policy decision makers and other stakeholders. More specifically, national networks will embrace developers of qualifications and frameworks at sectorial and national level, accreditation bodies for continuing vocational training, organisations for vocational education training, research institutes and experts providing vocational education training, waste management organisations as well as other potential learners (workers in the sector, job seekers, and students of technical schools). Other interested stakeholders can originate from local authorities and communities, industrial companies, academic institutions, consulting companies, waste management technology and equipment providers, mass media and environmental organisations.

Each member will have to register to the e-platform and a comprehensive data base of contact details will be created. The database will contain the contacts of the relevant organisations and individuals. The final synthesis of the network is anticipated after the completion of the internal validation process.

IT-Platform is the communication and knowledge exchange tool of SWFM-QF project. Registered users have access to a lot of information about knowledge, skills and competences development of Solid Waste Facilities Managers.

SWFM-QF networking support will be realised by organising events (seminars, workshops), compiling and distributing informational leaflets, using IT-platform, creating small clusters of organisations active in the same field, exploring opportunities of co-operation with existing and other projects' networks, mainstreaming results at decision-making level.



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### 5. SWFM-QF kick off meeting

The kick-off meeting of SWFM-QF project was realized in Thessaloniki on 17 - 18 December of 2012. The meeting was hosted by SIGMA Consultants Ltd. During the meeting analytical descriptions of the project work packages were presented and explained in details. SBG-DD presented practical information about EQF and ECVET in Germany. KTU-APINI discussed the issue of questionnaires and survey reports on the qualifications and training procedures of Solid Waste Management Professionals.

TWML presented Solid Waste Facilities Manager Competence Framework and Training Curriculum in UK.

### 6. Next planned actions

Shortly two surveys will begin. The first survey will focus on the assessment of the nature, content and regulation of qualifications for Managers in Solid Waste Management, the second one will assess the existing national VET systems on the professions of Waste Management in industry. The result of the national surveys will be described in reports expected for June 2013.

Next planned meeting of the SWFM-QF partners is the 2<sup>nd</sup> coordination meeting, that will be held in Dresden, before the end of June 2013. It will be hosted by the Saxon Education Company for Environmental Protection and Chemical Occupations Dresden Ltd. (SBG-DD). The purpose of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination Meeting will be the discussion of the project status in each participating country, the on-going and future activities, financial and administrative issues.

<sup>1</sup> - European Commission. Being wise with waste: the EU's approach to waste management. <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/WASTE%20BROCHURE.pdf>



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