



LEarning Outcome-oriented quality mobility placements to gain transparency and recognition of qualifications within the Tourism and Catering field

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First Project Newsletter

About the project

One of the central ideas underlying European lifelong learning policy is that international mobility should become a natural part of education and training schemes. However, what still hampers the full potential of learning mobility within the EU are the problems surrounding the recognition of learning periods spent abroad. There still exist, in fact, constraints due to the difficulty in having one's learning outcomes achieved abroad in formal, informal and non formal learning evaluated, validated, recognised, accumulated and transferred. In order to address these issues, the aim of LEO quali-TC is to transfer the innovative results of the ECVET TC NET Leonardo Network project and thus identify an operative framework to test ECVET and to facilitate the validation, recognition, accumulation and transfer of units of learning outcomes.

The project will provide concrete methodological tools to analyse and describe a range of vocational qualifications (EQF 2-3 levels – Tourism and Catering sector) in terms of units of learning outcomes and a Model that will permit the validation, recognition, accumulation and transfer of units of learning outcomes with reference to the existing European tools (EQF, Europass, ECTS) and principles (validation of non formal and informal learning, quality assurance) in order to reduce the barriers to mobility across Europe. With a view to developing and testing concepts and procedures to augment learners' mobility and making qualifications more transparent and portable, thus improving the common understanding of EU citizens' learning outcomes within trans-national mobility, better valuing individuals' experiences and upgrading skills for employability, the project aims to test ways of putting ECVET into practice.

Welcome!

Welcome to the LEO quali-TC First Newsletter!

The quarterly newsletter is part of the informative material published to disseminate and promote the aims, activities and outputs of the LEO quali-TC project.

This first issue of the newsletter introduces the newly launched Leonardo da Vinci TOI project, which was selected in July 2013 and is now beginning its work in transferring and implementing the ECVET technical specifications.

Future newsletters will also contain thematic articles on the outcomes of meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences that will be organised as part of the project dissemination activities.



Expected impact on the VET system

The introduction of the ECVET system in the different sectors of VET is a core demand for the qualitative development of the training systems in Europe. LEO quali-TC has its main aim in further developing and implementing the innovative content and the results of the ECVET model for the tourism and catering industry, which is one of the most important economic factors for most of the European countries and has a huge demand in work force

and work force mobility which can be fostered through the ECVET system.

An European area for lifelong learning is only possible if there is the possibility for transparency and recognition of learning outcomes and competences throughout Europe.

Transparency and comparability of qualifications are a precondition for a common European education and lifelong learning area

Project added value

LEO quali-TC will consolidate and integrate sound partnership across Europe between VET providers, enterprises, political decision makers on national, regional and local level, stakeholders and institutions responsible for VET qualifications systems, enhancing cooperation and networking and promoting mutual trust, with the final purpose of implementing ECVET. The whole project activities will be implemented by regarding a strong European perspective which will be reflected in all project outputs and results. The project aims to increase the knowledge of ECVET and its technical specifications and ensuring that the added value of ECVET is understood and perceived all over Europe.

Project thematic phases

LEO quali-TC has its aim in further developing and implementing the content and the results of the ECVET model for the Tourism and Catering industry through 6 thematic phases:

1. European survey, peer review and development: the planning and implementation of the European survey investigating competences and skills in the Tourism and Catering sector corresponding to level 2 and 3 of the EQF in the countries involved is the thematic starting phase of the project. It will be firstly reviewed the European survey produced by the ECVET TC Network. During the survey with training organisations, schools, companies and service providers in the Tourism and Catering sector, the relevant and needed competences will be identified. The competences will be presented in a special competence grid to allow comparability and transparency.

2. Transfer process of the ECVET model and development: based on the principles and results of the ECVET TC NET model and the competences deduced from the European survey (presented in the competence grid) the ECVET model for Tourism and Catering will be further developed and described in a comprehensive model description document.

3. Transfer process of the MoU tool and certificate and development: the consortium will, in parallel to the ECVET model transfer and development, work on the discussion and development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as the basic document for all organisations wanting to apply the ECVET model and allow mutual recognition. Furthermore the draft of the ECVET certificate will be discussed and further developed.

4. Test implementation of the ECVET model: mobility. Following the philosophy of agreement, rules and methods for the application of the ECVET system, the ECVET model and tools will be shared in individual mobility programmes. Recognition will take the form of award of a full unit or part of a unit which will be part of the full qualification. The unit (or part of the unit) will be assessed abroad and validated and recognized upon return with the support of the Regional Authorities involved as associated partners.

5. Test implementation of the ECVET model: workshops/peer learning activities. A set of two workshops/peer learning activities per partner country are scheduled in order to meet the needs of the stakeholders and VET practitioners involved and then support and guide them through the process of applying ECVET.

6. Blended learning scheme for hosting companies' Mentors. Large parts of vocational training in the Tourism and Catering sector take place within companies and service providers. However, these organisations are not classical training organisations and thus mentors within them have no enough experiences with competent application of European instruments for transparency (EQF, ECVET). A blended training scheme will support and guide them through the process of applying ECVET and raise quality in mobility programmes.

Kick-off Meeting & Start up Dissemination Workshop: Graz (AT), 21-22 October 2013

The Kick-off Meeting of the project partners and the Start up Dissemination Workshop took place in the Austrian city of Graz on the 21st and the 22nd of October 2013. During the meeting and the workshop, the participating institutions and their representatives introduced themselves to one another. Presentations and comparative discussions on the national educational systems and on the professional profiles in the field of Tourism and Catering as well as on the instruments and principles of ECVET helped to build up a common base of knowledge on these central issues.

In the course of the project the partners will investigate which preconditions have to be set at the participating institutions in order to implement ECVET instruments to promote transparency and permeability in vocational education and training in the field of Tourism and Catering in Europe.



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