



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

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## Second Project Newsletter

### About the project and the ECVET implementation

Recent economic developments have shown the need for a highly skilled workforce in a global context. As the world of work becomes more and more international, Europe needs education and training systems that fully respond to these challenges. Indeed, one of the central ideas underlying European LLL policy is that international mobility should become a natural part of education and training schemes. This helps learners to achieve higher qualification levels which are crucial for a successful first step into the labour market or for career improvements. 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 project is to identify an operative framework to test ECVET and to facilitate the validation, recognition, accumulation and transfer of units of learning outcomes. The project aims to provide concrete methodological tools to analyse and describe a range of vocational qualifications (EQF 2-3 levels – Tourism and Catering fields) 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. The whole activities are implemented by regarding a strong European perspective which are reflected in all project outputs and results, ensuring that the added value of ECVET is understood and perceived all over Europe.

### Welcome!

Welcome to the LEO quali-TC Second 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 second issue of the newsletter deepens some content and introduces the progress of the project, which is now in its first six-month of work in transferring and implementing the ECVET technical specifications of the Leonardo Network ECVET TC NET project.

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 activities.



## The innovative content of LEO quali-TC

The ECVET TC NET model on which LEO quali-TC is based is a concrete methodological tool to analyse and describe vocational qualifications in terms of units of learning outcomes and support the validation, recognition, accumulation and transfer of units of learning outcomes.

It is a model for the implementation of the ECVET system; a model to describe entire qualifications or their studies of different scopes in

terms of field of work, competences and indicators.

The model can be used for different purposes where the transparency of competence profiles is highly important, e.g. for transferring and recognizing competences acquired within the official VET system as well as competences achieved through non-formal or informal learning.

*LEO quali-TC aims to support mobility partners in identifying and agreeing on mobility phases and contents and providing them guidelines to enter into a more in-depth dialogue*

### Quality Assurance and ECVET

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. A European area for LLL is only possible if there is the possibility for transparency and recognition of learning outcomes and competences throughout Europe. Especially for the tourism and catering sector the need for these systems is even clearer as the work force mobility according to tourism flows and seasons is so evident. However, to ensure continuous improvement, the use of ECVET for geographical mobility must also be underpinned by quality assurance (QA) procedures. EQAVET (European Quality Assurance in VET) provides support for structuring these procedures. The four-step procedure of the EQAVET quality circle can be applied to specific mobility experience and to ECVET partnerships.

### The results of the European Survey

Planning and implementation of the European Survey investigating competences and skills in the tourism and catering fields in Europe has been the thematic starting phase of the project.

European Survey included 5 partner institutions in 5 different countries (Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain and Bulgaria) and 9 different professions. At opening meeting in October 2013 in Graz (AT), partners agreed to implement a questionnaire survey which was distributed to all partner countries. Survey was conducted in a 4-month period and included 50 surveyants between VET training centres, tourism and catering service providers, hotels, restaurants, coffee shops and bars. Surveyants were asked about requested and offered competences in the sector. Questionnaires were distributed in each country and filled out by representatives of the tourism and catering sector.

All partners, leaded by PO-IPSSAR "A. Saffi" and P4-Escuela de Hostelería de A Coruña "Á. Cunqueiro", in a peer review basis, formatted final grid model, based on the ECVET TC NET Competence Grid and also on received areas and competences from partner institutions.

Finally, a grid with 8 different areas or fields of work was implemented:

- Personal appearance and working place hygiene
- Work planning, organization and analysis
- Preparation of work/ working place
- Operational work
- Commercial work
- Administrative work
- Communication
- Health and environment protection

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Meeting & 1<sup>st</sup> Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop: Florence (IT), 03-04 March 2014

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the project partners and the 1<sup>st</sup> Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop took place in Florence (IT) on the 03<sup>rd</sup> and the 04<sup>th</sup> of March 2014.

During the meeting of the first day the **European Survey** results have been firstly presented. Then, all partners have been divided into groups in order to peer review and finalise, on a workshop basis, the **Competence Grid** on the Tourism and Catering fields. Competences have been deducted from the results of the European Survey, the Competence Grid of the Leonardo da Vinci Network ECVET TC NET project and from a comparison between the different national qualification systems of the partner Countries.

Furthermore, the first draft of the **ECVET Model for Tourism and Catering** has been presented to be further developed and updated together with the **Memorandum of Mutual Understanding (MoU)** and the ECVET compliant **Certificate**. The MoU is one of the two central supporting documents for the implementation of the ECVET Model for the Tourism and Catering industry. It contains the text description of an ethical code which all signing partners are declaring to accept through their signature. Furthermore, for a full transparency of the competences and learning outcomes mentioned, a Certificate, as attachment to the national certificates, completes the supporting documents.

During the Dissemination Thematic Workshop of the second day, held at IPSSAR "A. Saffi" venues, the state of art related the implementation of ECVET in Italy has been presented and discussed together with the content and expected results of LEO quali-TC. The recognition of qualifications and learning outcomes from one Region to another is still critical in Italy. Although national standards exist. The latest regulations are moving to a more efficient and homogeneous national qualifications system based on learning outcomes, more flexible qualifications and assessment standards. Even if there has been no specific and explicit adoption of ECVET in Italy, there are quite a number of developments that are, in a way, approaching this goal. The learning outcomes approach has been implemented in different areas of the Italian qualifications system, although differences, mainly terminological, still remain among different subsystems. The learning outcomes approach will be extended in the near future with reference to the second phase of the referencing process of the national qualifications system to EQF and the implementation of the latest national regulations on VET.



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