



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

Project identification No: 2013-1-IT1-LEO05-04022  
Project duration: from 01/10/2013 to 30/09/2015

## Third Project Newsletter

### The reason for using ECVET in the Tourism & Catering industry

Tourism and catering is one of the most important economic sectors in Europe and provides more than 9 million jobs. The fact that this sector relies heavily on a flexible and mobile workforce is the underlying rationale for the development and implementation of an ECVET model, in order to establish the basis for the mutual recognition and transparency of competences in measuring learning outcomes. In general, the gross domestic product generated by tourism represents already 5% in the core industry with another 7% in the related economy. With 1.8 million enterprises in Europe, the tourism sector is responsible for approximately 9.7 million jobs in the core industry (or 5.2% of the labour workforce) and more than 20 million jobs in total with the related economy (or an additional 8% workforce). In addition, the tourism sector is also capable of creating more than 100.000 new jobs per year. Tourism is, therefore, a key sector of the European economy. It comprises a wide variety of products and destinations and involves many different stakeholders, both public and private, with areas of competence very decentralized, often at regional and local levels.

Therefore, a high quality, well-educated and well-trained workforce is, without any doubt, the key, as this industry relies very much on the flexibility and mobility of its employees. In the tourism and catering sectors, people work for people and everything starts with the customers' needs. Qualified and trained professionals are required to fulfil each customer's expectations and to meet the challenges in the field. In order to address this issue, the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model is developed for the mutual recognition and transparency of competences, as well as learning outcomes for the tourism and catering industry.

### Welcome!

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

Next Newsletter will contain the progress as well as a thematic article on the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the project partners and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop which will be held in A Coruña (ES) on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014.



## Project Target Groups

There are several target groups LEO quali-TC aims to reach:

- ◆ Technical and vocational tourism and catering schools;
- ◆ Universities offering VET courses in tourism and catering;
- ◆ Training centres and VET providers in tourism and catering;
- ◆ Enterprises in tourism and catering;
- ◆ Political decision makers on European, national, regional and local level;
- ◆ Public and private institutions

and authorities responsible for the design, administration and award of vocational qualifications;

- ◆ Chambers of commerce and enterprises, trade unions and any other stakeholders;
- ◆ Trainees attending tourism and catering VET programmes involved in transnational mobility;
- ◆ Hosting companies' mentors;
- ◆ Pedagogical staff/experts of all institutions involved in the project.

*LEO quali-TC aims to meet the needs of the stakeholders and VET practitioners and then support and guide them through the process of applying ECVET and raise quality in mobility*

### ECVET implementation

ECVET is a voluntary instrument that aims to be implemented progressively.

Since its adoption in 2009 Countries and the Commission are putting important emphasis on testing and further developing this instrument. This involves launching of pilot projects funded through the LLP, such as LEO quali-TC, but also through national initiatives. It also comprises development of supporting tools such as the ECVET users' guide and the possible adaptation of Europass documents. By 2012 countries were expected to have created the necessary conditions and taken measures for gradual implementation of ECVET to vocational qualifications at all levels of the EQF and by the end of 2014, the Commission will report to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of testing and assessment of actions taken at Member States level. This may result in a review and adaptation of the Technical Specifications on ECVET as described in the Recommendation.

### The LEO quali-TC ECVET Model

The transfer phase for the ECVET TC NET Model and its further development is the core activity in the LEO quali-TC project. On the basis of the results of the European Survey and the Competence Grid, project partners, guided by P2-Bfi Steiermark, provided to adapt and further develop, in a 5-month period, the ECVET Model for Tourism and Catering. The ECVET Model is a tool for the validation and recognition of learning outcomes. It is a concrete model and tool 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.

Assessment of learning outcomes should be based on descriptions of learning outcomes in terms of competences and indicators. If assessment is carried out according to another country's practices, it is necessary to establish the criteria on which the grades are based and how assessment is to be documented. The assessors should be individuals/bodies competent under the statutes of the sending or receiving country. Decisions on validation and recognition of training completed abroad will be taken by individual education providers. In order for a decision-making process to be systematic, official and conforming to the requirement of learners' legal protection, the process should be outlined in the provider's curriculum.

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

and curricula and enhancing the visibility of differences in qualifications. It is characteristic for the tourism and catering industry that a significant proportion of training programmes are undertaken at the workplace, through corporate training and apprenticeship systems.

The ECVET Model can be used for:

- ◆ The transfer of vocational competences acquired abroad (mobility in VET);
- ◆ The transfer and recognition of competences acquired within the official VET system as well as competences achieved through non-formal or informal learning;
- ◆ The development of qualifications;
- ◆ Composing job profiles as well as personnel (human resources) planning;
- ◆ Enhancing the visibility of differences in qualifications, therefore for use in the development of the EQF.

The credit transfer process in the ECVET system consists of validation and recognition. Validation refers to the evaluation of equivalent learning outcomes, i.e. ensuring that the assessed learning outcomes achieved by a specific learner are equivalent with the learning outcomes required in specific individual units of qualifications. Recognition of learning outcomes refers to a process in which the validated learning outcomes are given the official status of a credit for the individual unit. Principally, the learner applies for the recognition of his/her competences before learning paths begin and acquires all necessary documents. ECVET rises up the question of what these documents should include.

Certifications signed by teachers can be approved as documents, for example. Mutual recognition and formalization of qualifications are usually done according to the practices of each country. In each country, credits are determined according to the rules and regulations in force, and they should be validated by the respective education provider, drafted according to the documents guiding the learner assessment and documented to a sufficient degree.

### Project presentation during “ETEROB” Kick-off Meeting: Bydgoszcz (PL), 08-09 May 2014

On the 08<sup>th</sup> and 09<sup>th</sup> May 2014 LEO quali-TC has been presented by PO-IPSSAR “A. Saffi” to the project partners of the Leonardo Transfer of Innovation project “ETEROB” (European Training Programme on Energy Efficient Renovation of Old Buildings). The occasion has been the Kick-off Meeting of the project held in Bydgoszcz (Poland).



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