



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

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Fourth Project Newsletter

ECVET from the Stakeholders' viewpoint involved in the LEO quali-TC Dissemination Thematic Workshops

One of the main requirements for high quality workforce in tourism is to gather some international experience, to stay abroad in order to learn from and about cultures, nationalities and countries different from one's own. There is no doubt that intercultural training, foreign language training, working abroad as well as personal experiences and insights gathered abroad, are fundamental experiences and skills needed when working in the tourism industry. In the course of the meetings with stakeholders during the Dissemination Thematic Workshops in Graz (AT), in October 2013, in Florence (IT), in March 2014 and in A Coruña (ES), in July 2014, the possibilities and problems that might arise from the mutual mobility programmes were discussed with the following results:

- ◆ The European tourism and catering industry is increasingly faced with the demand for high quality tourism, which is closely related to mobile workers and high quality employees with excellent competences and skills;
- ◆ Every partner country reports about having problems with finding qualified workers;
- ◆ The tourism and catering industry's current reputation is not at its best and needs to be improved;
- ◆ It is difficult to inspire young people to undergo an apprenticeship in tourism, even abroad, for becoming, for example, waiters, cooks or receptionists;
- ◆ It is quite common to hear about the stereotype of inconvenient working hours in tourism, which seems to be widespread all over Europe;
- ◆ If the expenses for mobility cannot be financed in the course of a programme of the EU, internships abroad are not a realistic possibility as limited by financial reasons.

Welcome!

Welcome to the LEO quali-TC Fourth 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 fourth issue of the newsletter deepens some content related to the progress of the project, which is now in its first year of work.

Next Newsletter will contain the progress as well as a thematic article on the EFVET Dissemination Conference which will be held in Porto from 22nd to 25th October 2014 and the outcomes of the 4th Meeting of the project partners and the Transnational Dissemination Thematic Seminar with experts, which will be held in Frankfurt Oder (DE) on the 10th and 11th December 2014.



Lessons learnt at the end of the 1st year project life

- ◆ ECVET and lifelong learning refer to the process of identifying learners' capabilities in order to define the type of learning, the teaching and assessment processes which help individuals to acquire any missed learning outcomes;
- ◆ ECVET can support individuals to update their skills: people without earlier experience in formal education may not have the motivation to start a course leading to a qualification if they already work in a profession where the qualification is needed; adults who gain units of a qualification and need to update their knowledge of their professional field can apply for the validation and recognition of their prior learning through a practical skills demonstration.
- ◆ ECVET can be particularly useful for some target groups of learners e.g. adults who leave school early, and people likely to be excluded from school and the labour market;

ECVET opens new possibilities for the effective validation and recognition of prior learning for individuals and facilitates learners' access to education and training!

LEO quali-TC Mobility project



On last 24th September, at the end of the evaluation procedures of the KA1 Mobility projects for VET Learners and Staff, the Italian Erasmus+ National Agency granted the "LEO quali-TC Mobility" project (No. 2014-1-IT01-KA102-000181), promoted by IPSSAR "Saffi". The project is part of the LEO quali-TC objectives aiming at testing the ECVET model for Tourism and Catering in individual mobility programmes. At the stage of the pilot test on LEO quali-TC mobility project all the ECVET developments will be undertaken on a practical assessment and implementation to receive valuable feedback from all involved organisations and parties on the quality of instruments, feasibility as well as practicality of tools.

Summary of the 1st year project outcomes

The first year of LEO quali-TC project life came to end and 3 of the 6 planned thematic phases have been successfully carried out:

1. European survey and competence grid: 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 was the thematic starting phase of the project. It was 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 were identified. The competences were presented in a special competence grid to allow comparability and transparency.

2. Transfer process of the ECVET model: 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 was further developed and described in a comprehensive model description document.

3. Transfer process of the MoU tool and Certificate: the consortium, in parallel to the ECVET model transfer and development, worked 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 was discussed and further developed.

The second year of LEO quali-TC project life will be mainly a testing phase of the ECVET model on mobility programmes and workshops/peer learning activities. A blended learning scheme for hosting companies' Mentors will complete the test implementation of the model.

3rd Project Meeting & 2nd Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop: A Coruña (ES), 10-11 July 2014

The 3rd Meeting of the project partners and the 2nd Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop took place in A Coruña (ES) on the 10th and the 11th of July 2014.

During the meeting of the first day all partners were divided into groups in order to peer review and finalise, on a workshop basis, the content of the English version of the **LEO quali-TC ECVET model**. Furthermore, partners provided to peer review and finalise the graphic format and content of the English version of the **Memorandum of Understanding and Certificate**.

The meeting was also the occasion to discuss and decide about the planning of the test implementation of the LEO quali-TC ECVET model and the methodology to be adopted.

During the Dissemination Thematic Workshop of the second day, held at Escuela de Hostelería de A Coruña "Á. Cunqueiro" venues, the state of art related the implementation of ECVET in Spain was presented and discussed together with the content and results of LEO quali-TC project.

In Spain, VET is coherent with the ECVET philosophy. The VET system is based on modular learning programmes. All the diplomas from initial VET within the education system are 2000 hours in duration, both intermediate diplomas (3B ISCED level) and higher level diplomas (5B ISCED and higher) are expressed in learning outcomes and permit acquiring professional competences following established standards in response to production sector needs. All the diplomas support acquiring and improving personal and social competences and exercising active citizenship.

The new system for validation of professional competences acquired through professional experience establishes the assessment and partial accreditation of units of competence of professional qualifications (established standards) included in VET diplomas or on certificates of professionalism. The competence units thus accredited can result in the validation or exemption of the corresponding modules included in either the VET diplomas or in the certificates of professionalism. At the moment, the validation procedure is only used for vocational education and training at both levels, intermediate and higher. However, the Spanish Ministry of Education is working on the legal framework on validation for university level.

The first draft of the Royal Decree recognises universities' autonomy and states that each university will decide on modules or units to validate, to a maximum of 15%, as well as on the method to be used. Once an official decision on ECVET is reached across Government, working groups, including all relevant stakeholders and linking to different advisory bodies, could be set up.



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