



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

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Seventh Project Newsletter

The testing phase of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model on mobility programmes

In order to get further concrete results on the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model, the Consortium tested the developed approaches, instruments and documents on genuine mobility programmes (financially within the framework of LPP-Leonardo da Vinci IVT mobility projects such as "AST-ECVET" promoted by Provincia di Campobasso (IT) and "Azubimobil" promoted by P3-IHK-Projektgesellschaft mbH Ostbrandenburg (DE); Erasmus+ KA1 for VET Learners projects such as "LEO quali-TC Mobility" promoted by P0-IPSSAR "Saffi" (IT) and "The European Experience for Improving and Validating the Vocational skills in Touristic Area" promoted by P5 – Vocational High School of Tourism "Dr. V. Beron" (BG).

At the stage of the pilot test all the developments were 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. Since the ECVET process of mutual recognition and acquisition of competences is based on a multi stakeholder co-operation it was particularly important that different kind of organisations (training institutions, technical and vocational schools, companies from the tourism sector, associations etc.) had the chance to test the instruments on mobility programmes and provide feedback for further adaptation and revision.

The test implementation was coordinated by the German partner P3-IHK-Projektgesellschaft mbH Ostbrandenburg, which holds a high experience in managing individual mobility programmes (about 100 per year).

A set of guidelines were provided for the necessary information for the implementation of the pilot phase in participating countries (Italy, Germany and Bulgaria) as well as tools for feedback and evaluation of single testing steps on the mobility programmes. A total number of 207 students/learners were involved in the mobility test implementation.

The whole test report is developed in EN language and is available in hard copy as well as in PDF version for the download via the project website.

Welcome!

Welcome to the LEO quali-TC Seventh 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 seventh issue of the newsletter deepens some content related the testing phase of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model on mobility programmes and some reflections on the Model itself; a brief presentation of the "EQF meets ECVET" project – a good practice aiming at promoting inclusive education and lifelong learning for learners with disabilities and a thematic article on the 5th Meeting and the 3rd Transnational Dissemination Workshop.

Next Newsletter will contain a particular focus on the final results of the project as well as a thematic article on the Final Conference to be held in Florence (IT) on the 24th and 25th September 2015.

EQF meets ECVET: promoting inclusive education and lifelong learning for learners with disabilities



“EQF meets ECVET” is a 2-year Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation project promoted by Chance B (AT) and with partners in IT (P1-FCN), DE, SI, LT and BE. The project, which is now in its final stage of implementation, looks at the recognition of non-formal VET programmes that are based on EQF Levels 1-2 qualifications. The targets of the project are learners with disabilities or intellectual and learning difficulties who have some strengths and skills even though they may not meet all the learning outcomes described in a qualification. In these situations it is possible for learners to have

some skills at a higher level than is required by the qualification. The project looks at the issue of partial achievement and has designed LOs for VET programmes at Level 1 and 2. Two certification models have been developed and tested with a view to creating a diploma that includes units at higher levels than the level of the qualification. EQF meets ECVET strongly contributes, therefore, to “*promote inclusive education and lifelong learning for learners with disabilities*”, which is one of the 8 areas of action defined in the “European Disability Strategy 2010-2020”.

ECVET facilitates the recognition, accumulation, transfer and validation of assessed learning outcomes of individuals!

Recommendations for quality assurance of the ECVET mobility of an individual learner

The 4-step procedure of the EQAVET quality circle (planning, implementation, evaluation, revision) can be applied to specific mobility experiences and to ECVET partnerships.

► The **planning** phase includes all quality assurance measures related to activities in the phase ‘ECVET before mobility’;

► The **implementation** phase is the learning period abroad (‘ECVET during mobility’);

► The **evaluation** phase includes the phase after the learner has returned to the home institution (‘ECVET after mobility’). The crucial question in the evaluation process is whether it was possible to recognise the knowledge, skills and competence learners have acquired abroad. It is recommended to collect feedback from all actors involved in the mobility period – in particular, host and home organisation and the learner as well.

► Based on the results of the evaluation process – during the **revision** phase – actions are taken to improve future mobility programmes.

The LEO quali-TC ECVET Model for Tourism and Catering

The LEO quali-TC ECVET Model for Tourism and Catering developed by the Consortium is a tool for the credit transfer process: recognition and validation 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.

The 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 programmes and curricula and enhancing the visibility of differences in qualifications.

It is characteristically 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 LEO quali-TC 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.

5th Project Meeting and 3rd Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop: Veliko Tarnovo (BG), 11-12 May 2015

The 5th Meeting of the project partners and the 3rd Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop took place in Veliko Tarnovo (BG) on the 11th and the 12th of May 2015.

During the meeting of the first day all partners discussed about the project state of the art, namely the activities carried out during the first 4-month of 2015 of and the activities planned and to be carried out during the last 4-month of the project life.

The meeting was, in particular, the occasion to discuss and decide about the last stages of the test implementation of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model on mobility programmes and the blended learning for hosting companies' mentors as well as the validation of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model.

Particular attention was also paid to Quality Management & Assurance (WP2) and to Dissemination activities and impact (WP3) as well as to Project Management (WP1) and project technical and financial reporting.

During the Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop of the second day, held at Vocational High School of Tourism "Dr. Vasil Beron" venues, the state of art related the implementation of ECVET in Bulgaria was presented and discussed together with the content and results of LEO quali-TC project as well as other related contents and projects initiatives:

- ▶ *The LEO quali-TC project: contents, objectives and results;*
- ▶ *Skills and employment in the tourism and catering industry in Bulgaria;*
- ▶ *The implementation of the ECVET System in Bulgaria – State of the art;*
- ▶ *The Erasmus+ KA1 for VET Learners: presentation of the Mobility Project "The European Experience for Improving and Validating the Vocational skills in Touristic Area", to be carried out in Florence (IT) from 29th June to 20th July 2015 and on which the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model is planned to be tested.*



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