



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

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Eighth Project Newsletter

The testing phase of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model through the Blended learning scheme for hosting companies' Mentors

Mentors in receiving companies play a strategic role in the process of organizing, carrying out and evaluating mobility experiences. Therefore they are seen as key for quality assurance. Project partners focused on their training in how to understand and apply the European instruments for transparency and recognition of the learners' competences, such as EQF and ECVET. The methodological approach chosen by the partnership for implementing its interventions in the hosting companies had a strong "blended" component. Mentors were trained and became familiar with the following topics:

- Transparency and trust in different national VET-systems;
- Competent application of European instruments for transparency (EQF, ECVET);
- Implementation of valid learning outcomes in mobilities.

The blended learning activities merged into a manifold mix:

- A set of two Information and training seminars per partner country: they intended to sensitise on outstanding topics;
- Action learning: in order to help mentors to acquire logical schemes of intervention, skills and competencies to apply European instruments for transparency;
- One-to-one based Coaching: this is an intervention that aimed to support the mentors on a one-to-one basis and it was focused on performance target defined by them, in reference to the application of ECVET and other European instruments for transparency;
- Use of the distance learning platform: after developing a description of requirements and needs for a distance learning platform a virtual information and communication platform (Moodle platform via project website) was set up as an online-based learning environment for the blended-learning concept "LEO quali-TC".

The results of the blended learning activities were assessed and evaluated and the feedback of testing mentors adapted.

Welcome!

Welcome to the LEO quali-TC Eighth 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 eighth and last issue of the newsletter deepens some content related the testing phase of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model through a Blended learning scheme for hosting companies' Mentors; a description of some of the final results achieved by the project; the perspectives of ECVET in Tourism and Catering and a thematic article on the Final Dissemination Conference and the 6th Project Meeting held in Florence (IT) on the last 24th and 25th September 2015.



The LEO quali-TC Certificate



After completing the training programme abroad, the learner receives an ECVET Certificate.

After his/her return home, the sending organisation formally recognizes the credit and with it, the newly acquired skills of the learner. This certificate represents the competences and learning outcomes together with the corresponding ECVET credits and serves as the basic document for mutual recognition and transparency. The learner is assessed by the hosting organisation and tested at the end of the training.

The LEO quali-TC Certificate, with

the ECVET credit, is issued and awarded to the learner by the hosting organisation, after the successful completion of the mobility training programme.

The documentation of the qualification and credits a person has achieved during the training period abroad is printed on the backside of the LEO quali-TC Certificate.

This individual learner's transcript, serves as record and evidence to enable validation and recognition in another education institution, sub-system or sector.

LEO quali-TC aims to valorize individuals' experiences and upgrade skills for employability!

The LEO quali-TC Memorandum of Understanding

The LEO quali-TC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a voluntary partnership agreement in which conditions for an international VET placement are concluded between the mobility partners involved from different countries. The MoU sets the framework for credit transfer and establishes partnership's procedures for cooperation.

In this agreement, organisations accept each other's status as competent institutions and accept each other's quality assurance, assessment, validation and recognition criteria and procedures as satisfactory for the purpose of transferring credits at the end of a training period abroad.

They agree on the general conditions such as objectives and duration, use the ECVET model to agree on the comparability of qualifications concerned for the purpose of credit transfer and identify other actors and further institutions that may be involved.

Perspectives of ECVET in Tourism and Catering

Since years decision makers in the Tourism and Catering, improving training in order to upgrade skills in the tourism industry, have come to the conclusion that transparency and validation of qualifications must be a priority subject in the tourism sector in Europe. In times of intensified global competition, high number of low skilled workers and ageing population, Europe's future has to be distinguished by competitiveness and innovation.

ECVET, which is aimed at facilitating the accumulation, transfer and the recognition of knowledge, skills and competences gained by individuals towards a qualification, is applicable to learning outcomes gained in different learning environments or through periods of vocational education and training abroad. Through the experiences gathered in the course of the LEO quali-TC project, it can be considered a useful tool for allowing mutual recognition of competences and skills and of upgrading the skills in the tourism and catering industry in Europe. The ECVET based model provides a system for transparency of learning outcomes together with an approach for the concrete implementation in the tourism sector, where flexibility and mobility of workforce is of greater significance than in any other economic sector in Europe.

To sum it all up, there is no denying the fact that a European area for lifelong learning is only possible if there is the possibility of transparency and recognition of learning outcomes and competences throughout Europe. In the tourism and catering sector the need for these systems has become more evident also due to seasonality and tourist fluctuation. The ECVET model for the tourism and catering industry in Europe will have, as a long term target, clear effects on the workforce mobility and on the transparency of qualifications gained in vocational training and particularly in corporate training which is of very high significance in this sector. By providing highly qualified and flexible staff and human resources for this sector there will be an obvious impact on the services offered, which again will have an immediate impact on the long term target group.

Final LEO quali-TC Dissemination Conference and 6th Project Meeting: Firenze (IT), 24-25 September 2015

The Final LEO quali-TC Dissemination Conference and the 6th Meeting of the project partners took place in Florence (IT) on the 24th and the 25th of September 2015.

During the Final LEO quali-TC Dissemination Conference the content and results of LEO quali-TC project were presented to a large audience and discussed as well as other related contents and projects initiatives:

- ▶ *The LEO quali-TC project: contents, objectives and results achieved;*
- ▶ *The testing phase of LEO quali-TC results on Mobility programmes:*
 - *Project Erasmus+ KA1 for VET Learners "LEO quali-TC Mobility" – IPSSAR "A. Saffi"; IPSSAR "B. Buontalenti";*
 - *Project Erasmus+ KA1 for VET Learners "The European Experience for improving and validating the vocational skills in tourism area" – Vocational High School of Tourism "Dr. Vasil Beron";*
 - *Project LLP Leonardo da Vinci IVT "AST-ECVET" – Provincia di Campobasso.*
- ▶ *Testimonials of participants to Mobility programmes and main actors involved: learners, teachers, tutors and company mentors;*
- ▶ *Delivery of Europass Mobility Certificates and LEO quali-TC ECVET Certificates to participants to the Erasmus+ KA1 for VET Learners project "LEO quali-TC Mobility".*

During the internal consortium meeting partners discussed about the close of the project activities. Particular attention was paid to the final report of the project, to the dissemination activities and impact (WP3) and, most of all, to the exploitation strategy (WP4). The exploitation strategy contains the concrete planned activities of all project partners to reach a sustainable use of the project outputs in all partner countries and beyond after the end of the project life.



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