

# NEWSLETTER 1



## SENDI – Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion April 2014



SENDI Project is supported by LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME, LEONARDO DA VINCI, [www.sendiproject.eu](http://www.sendiproject.eu)

### **1. Presentation of SENDI:**

#### ▪ *The reason for the project*

This project is directed to learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and learners with disabilities who are not able to access the mainstream qualifications.

#### ▪ *The main aims and objectives*

The project aims recognition of learning outcomes for disadvantaged groups, especially groups with disabilities. Reinforcing the structural cooperation between VET providers and sectoral organizations – and umbrella organization representing the service providers for the target groups throughout Europe – is a main focus. A standard for practical VET-education for people with Sen will be realized, providing the target group with improved chances on a sustainable socio-economic participation in our European Society.

The proposed qualifications in this project are based on the P-scale criteria, initially developed by the UK Qualifications and Curriculum development Agency. They are competence based and underpin the mainstream national frameworks for learners with SEN engaged in pre-vocational work. The aim is to establish an international standard for recognizing the achievements of learners with SEN, including an open source quality assurance strategy and system in which the learning outcomes are clearly linked with EQF and EQAVET.

#### Key objectives:

- ✓ Provide a focus on transparency of competences under-pinning grades that are easy to read and compare;
- ✓ Support credit accumulation and transfer for pre-vocational and vocational learning;
- ✓ Scope the extent to which an SEN certification framework can be matched to underpin the EQF;
- ✓ Support personal development through increased take up of certification, lowering barriers to entry to mainstream EQF referenced qualifications for at risk groups;
- ✓ Enable more competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy though furthering inclusion;
- ✓ Enable the set up of new services led business that can support the on-going development of certification of learners with SEN.

### ▪ The characteristics of the Consortium

The Consortium is a coalition of experienced EU project participants with specific interests in SEN and in promotion education, employability and social participation of disabled people. They include Spanish, Czech, Bulgarian, Dutch and British partners under the overall leadership of the Spanish partner. Each member has agreed to take specific responsibility for the project work packages matched to specific areas.



**AGIFODENT** – The Association for Information, Training and Development of New Technologies – the Spanish partner and the coordinator of the project. The Association provides information and training activities in the field of new technologies for all citizens, especially entrepreneurs; collaborated in European projects supporting diffusion and dissemination through management, configuration of web sites, facilitating contact between schools and their partners and providing supporting documentation and translation. It also integrated clusters and federations of consumers and users, in order to provide the information required to foster and sustain high quality partnership. It develops action plans to ensure sustainability of worthwhile community projects and cooperated with initiatives to promote open source software and shared digital resources.



**Euroface Consulting** – Czech Republic – is a consulting and training centre fostering links between the education and production sectors, regionally and with some international outreach. Its key strengths are people management skills and use of ICT that supports inclusion and equality, most notably Open Source applications and free internet based resources. Euroface has extensive experience in EU projects, including many network links, a good track record of co-operation with public, private, government and non-government organizations.



**National Training Centre** ( ) – Bulgaria – provides training and qualifications in business and related technologies through the implementation into its courses of innovative methods, products and technologies, open-source code and systems. Experience in design/management of qualifications integrating EQF-ECVET-EQARF-Europass principles are a strength from design to implementation.



**Sichtung Kenniscentrum Pro Work** – The Netherlands – is a Centre of Excellence in the Netherlands as a direct result of the experience and activities of partnerships in several National and European projects. Pro Work offers a broad professional resource the responds to structural innovation in a demand driven way. They aim to promote career development for working people who require vocational education, training, coaching and guidance, particularly in SME's; and also to enable vulnerable groups to access the labor market.



**ASDAN education Strategic Partner** – the United Kingdom – is a pioneering curriculum development organization and awarding organization accredited by the UK regulators, OFQUAL. It offers programmes and qualifications that explicitly grow skills for learning, for employment and skills for life in 6000 centres. Its purpose is

“The advancement of education, by providing opportunities for all learners to develop their personal and social attributes and levels of achievement through ASDAN awards and resources, and the relief of poverty, where poverty inhibits such opportunities for learners”.

▪ General tangible and intangible outcomes

The project will support the establishment of P-scale certification as a transnational provision, on the same footing as mainstream EQF qualifications. While it is probably optimistic to achieve national level accreditation for a new qualifications framework within the timescale of this project, this is the longer term aim. A fully recognized certification framework under-pinning the EQF-based on P-scales in the long term goal and this project will start the process by transferring the innovative certification programme from the UK to partner countries.

▪ The impact envisaged

*Short-term impact:* an EU standard for recognizing the achievements of learners with SEN and support pathways for these people into the EQF across Europe.

*Long-term impact:* extend the geographical pilot to all EU member states establishing a consistent EU wide standard for assessment that recognizes the achievements of learners with SEN. Lower costs and improved certificate security over current systems will provide excellent cost-benefit. Extend to countries beyond the EU providing leadership in keeping with the aspirations of the Lisbon Strategy.

**2. 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting in Granada, Spain. November, 2013**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, the starting meeting took place in Granada, Spain. The partners had an opportunity to meet each other and to discuss the first steps in development of the project.

