

An innovative way towards European competence based entrepreneur qualifications - entrepreneur diploma (EUROPAPRENEUR)

2008-1-FI1-LEO05-00453

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=4614>

Information sur le projet

Titre: An innovative way towards European competence based entrepreneur qualifications - entrepreneur diploma (EUROPAPRENEUR)
Code Projet: 2008-1-F11-LEO05-00453
Année: 2008
Type de Projet: Projets de transfert d'innovation
Statut: Clôturé
Pays: FI-Finlande
Accroche marketing: The marketing text will be added later.
Résumé: EUROPAPRENEUR

Partners:

Opeko, AKOL& The Federation of Finnish Enterprises from Finland
Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association Ltd Ireland
DBO Belgium
Scalconsult – Consultores, Lda Portugal
Instituto de Formación y Estudios Sociales – IFES, Spain
CENTRE RECURSOS D'INICIATIVES I AUTOCUPACIÓ SL, Spain
SVGB kennis- en opleidingscentrum, Holland;
Center Republike Slovenije za poklicno izobraževanje Slovenia;
FRAREG s.r.l. Italy (until 31 March 2010)

The objective of the project is to transfer the elements of the innovative entrepreneur diploma - national competence based qualifications for entrepreneurs developed in Finland to European partner countries and to develop entrepreneurship training (training of nascent entrepreneurs) in Finland further through the impulse from the partner countries. The final objective is the creation of a common European diploma.

The project team integrates expertise and experience in fields of training, e-learning, management and legal consulting, curriculum development, and vocational training. The mix between SMEs, training institutes, public bodies and departments of ministries of education/VET, e-learning experts, consulting companies and end-users will produce results, which employ theoretical and entrepreneurial approaches as well as practical experiences.

The main products

- * survey on the situation in the partner countries concerning systems of competence-based qualifications and needs for the European competence based entrepreneur qualifications – entrepreneur diploma (EUROPAPRENEUR diploma)
- * design of the competence-based qualifications for the European entrepreneurs with testing situations and contexts
- * design of a training course for achieving the qualification
- * learning platform for entrepreneurship and further training
- * piloting results of the programme (training course and the qualification for the entrepreneurs)
- * design of a multipliers' guide for future users of the project results

The national and international “cascade effect” anticipated as a result after the project life-time will focus on trainers and educators; local, regional, and national education authorities and policy makers; associations and networks; conference and seminar participants and arrangers, policy papers and studies to be written, the development of new curricula and methodologies for vocational education, particularly in the validation of informal and non-formal learning. Finally, the new European competence-based qualification for entrepreneurs will be widely disseminated and exploited by both education institutes and labour market.

Description: The objective of the project “An innovative way towards common European competence based entrepreneur qualifications – entrepreneur diploma (EUROPAPRENEUR)” is to transfer the elements of the innovative entrepreneur

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diploma - national competence based qualifications for entrepreneurs developed in Finland to European partner countries and to develop entrepreneurship training (training of nascent entrepreneurs) in Finland further through the impulse from the partner countries. Useful learning arrangements throughout Europe shall be developed and tested in the project, especially through the development of blended-learning modules, in order to support practical and other innovative learning forms. The respective learning modules will be assessed with credit points, in which the usability of both the ECVET-concept and the ECTS-system are to be examined. At the same time an integration into the NQF/EQF shall be carried out. In this way, the quality and attractiveness of entrepreneurship trainers, teachers and tutors to be increased, the permeability between the different educational systems (vocational training, university) enabled and the experiences and competences of the European partners in the areas of E-Learning and blended-learning approaches for trainers, teachers and tutors utilised.

Our research has shown that the Finnish system of national competence based qualifications for entrepreneurs is unique in Europe and that other European countries can profit from this qualification system decisively. The added value for the cooperative partner institutions in Europe is that they are able to develop and expand their entrepreneurship training offers round the innovative common European competence based entrepreneur qualifications – entrepreneur diploma and cover the qualification needs of nascent entrepreneurs in their countries much better.

Moreover, we are expecting a considerable contribution to entrepreneurship training in Finland, if the model “common European competence based entrepreneur qualifications” is established in a European validated framework. Finnish entrepreneurship trainers, teachers and tutors could, for instance, be able to complete their further training in different EU-countries and yet acquire a state-approved certificate with no time and quality decline at all. The other way round, trainers, teachers and tutors from partner countries would be able to complete their further training (in parts) in their native countries and take the state-regulated examination in Finland. The application of European credit points and the integration of the further training into the NQF and EQF would then be of considerable benefit to all parties concerned.

Needs

The task of entrepreneurship trainers, teachers and tutors have become more challenging and multifaceted not only in Finland but throughout Europe. Facing the changes in the fast changing environment and the increased demands on the nascent entrepreneurs (assuring business survival, acquaintance with global challenges and competition, increase of project-based work and teamwork, importance of business growth, importance of product differentiation and diversification and need of more own initiative, etc), entrepreneurship trainers, teachers and tutors play a very important key role. Their task is to convey entrepreneurial mindset, business skills, decision-making, problem solving, innovativeness, social and self-learning competences etc to the nascent entrepreneurs and, also increasingly, to detect communicative, organisational and coordinative tasks. Yet many of them lack those skills and competences, advisory and organisational competences, with which they will be able to practice their extended role as a coach, learning companion and coordinator and complement their existing task of transmitting business idea specific knowledge.

The system of national competence based qualifications for micro business owners, self-employed and nascent entrepreneurs in Finland has worked successfully since 1995. Yet, for many micro business owners, self-employed and nascent entrepreneurs, the participation in an entrepreneurship training course which aim to assist them to receive the entrepreneur diploma has been difficult to organise, due to, for instance, a long journey or private obligations. Blended-learning has then proved to be the most appropriate learning form, which has made possible a direct exchange between the trainers and the participants through a combination of attendance and online presence phases and additionally a part of the training time

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and place can be completed independently. For that reason, a blended-learning course should be offered, in which the experiences and competences of the European partners on developing blended-learning courses can be well used.

The partner institutions from Europe are willing to integrate elements from the Finnish certified system of national competence based qualifications into their entrepreneurship training provision portfolio, since they do not exist in such form and development in their countries. In Spain, the most important self-employment and entrepreneurship training activities are located within non-formal system. There exist only a few entrepreneurship training experiences within formal educational system (i.e. Asturias Region). Being aware that today there is a strong national political decision to increase and support entrepreneurship activities, such as training for self-employment, we need to innovate and bring up methodological solutions for competences recognition in this typology of training. We need to open the discussion and contrast with other European experiences and also to capitalise upon these experiences in the framework of one vision of European future. National System of Qualifications and Vocational Training ("Sistema Nacional de Cualificaciones y Formación Profesional") is being developed in Spain, there is a clear need for competence based qualifications.

The Portuguese partner Scalconsult has shown a strong interest in increasing the quality of its training courses and adapting the Finnish certified system of national competence based qualifications, as the Get Results project has shown. In the Netherlands Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is seen as a valuable alternative for formal educational pathways. APL is the common name given to the process of recognising the competences an individual has gained through formal, informal or non-formal learning in various settings. SVGB develops APL-procedures for all the qualifications in the field of health technology and (creative) craftsmanship. SVGB is the centre of expertise on vocational education, training and the labour market for health technology and (creative) craftsmanship. SVGB is very interested in the possibilities for APL for Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship forms an integrating part of most of its qualifications.

If you want to start your own business in Belgium, you will have to prove having a basic knowledge of business management by presenting an official certificate of 'Business Management', issued by training centres after having taken a minimum programme. This minimum programme is imposed by the federal government and has been laid down by Royal Decree. The compulsory subject material must be acquired in at least 120 hours. The Flemish government translated this minimum programme into entrepreneurial skills. This minimum competency - oriented programme is imposed to all schools of secondary education and adult education in Flanders through a circular letter. The minimum programme of 'Business Management' is offered as a modular system in adult education. Every module contains a number of entrepreneurial skills, which are a combination of knowledge, general skills and attitudes. The competencies acquired should enable someone to start and run his own micro business.

The DBO (Vocational Training Service) is running a project 'Support for Micro-entrepreneurs in Training' (OMOO). OMOO aims at promoting entrepreneurship among young people and providing information to potential starters.

In Italy there is not yet national systems for competence based qualifications for adults. There is an incomplete draft. The recent political situation has and will delay the project furthermore. But there is a clear need for competence based qualifications for entrepreneurs in Italy.

There is a clear need for competence based qualifications in Ireland. There has been a significant drive by the government in recent years for SME Management

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Development with funding available for the development of management skills for the SME. This funding is now dependent on the achievement of certification on the NFQ. The main difficulty is that the NFQ has an academic focus while entrepreneurs have a practical focus. The key is to develop training that meets the needs of both. There is a purported APEL system which is dependent on each provider and is not of a national standard. This is in a relatively early stage of development and there is not clear agreement at the QA level in the institutions of how it works or should work. It is also not widely promoted as a possibility due to the perception that it requires significant resources from the academic staff to support applicants. It would be useful to have a competence based qualification for entrepreneurs which would be recognised by all institutions once it is on the NFQ.

Since there are remarkable differences in Europe in terms of entrepreneurship culture and environment, entrepreneurial mindsets, in terms of qualifications, the role of the trainers, teachers and tutors in entrepreneurship, as well as the national educational needs, it is necessary to adapt the Finnish certified system of national competence based qualifications to country-specific conditions and a country's entrepreneurship culture and environment. From the students' point of view, the need is not a result from the change of qualifications and general conditions, as observed throughout the educational scenary in the last few years.

- Thèmes: *** Entreprise, TPE, PME
 ** Formation ouverte et à distance
 * Utilisation et diffusion de résultats
 * TIC
 * Formation tout au long de la vie
 * Enseignement supérieur
 * Validation, transparence, certification
 * Égalité des chances
 * Formation continue
- Sectors: * Activités des Ménages en tant qu'Employeurs; Activités Indifférenciées des Ménages en tant que Producteurs de biens et Services pour Usage Propre
 * Activités de Services Administratifs et de Soutien
 * Activités Immobilières
 * Activités Financières et d'Assurance
 * Transports et Entreposage
 * Commerce; Réparation d'Automobiles et de Motocycles
 * Construction
 * Industrie Manufacturière
 * Hébergement et Restauration
 * Activités Spécialisées, Scientifiques Et Techniques
 * Autres Activités de Services
 * Information et Communication
 * Enseignement
 * Arts, Spectacles et Activités Récréatives
 * Agriculture, Sylviculture et Pêche
- Types de Produit: Site Internet
- Information sur le produit: The main products
 * survey on the situation in the partner countries concerning systems of competence-based qualifications and needs for the European competence based entrepreneur qualifications – entrepreneur diploma (EUROPAPRENEUR diploma)
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Contractant du projet

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Pays: FI-Finlande
Type d'organisation: Autres
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Partenaire

Partner 1

Nom: SVGB centre of expertise
Ville: Nieuwegein
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 2

Nom: Institute for Training and Social Studies
Ville: Valencia
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 3

Nom: AKOL
Ville: Helsinki
Pays/Région: Etelä-Suomi
Pays: FI-Finlande
Type d'organisation: Syndicat
Site Internet: <http://www.oaj.fi/akol>

Partner 4

Nom: The Federation of Finnish Enterprises (FFE)
Ville: Helsinki
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partenaire

Partner 5

Nom: National Institute for Vocational Education and Training
Ville: Ljubljana
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 6

Nom: FRAREG s.r.l. (partner until 31 March 2010)
Ville: Milano
Pays/Région: Emilia-Romagna
Pays: IT-Italie
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 7

Nom: Self-employed and Initiatives Ressources Center, Ltd
Ville: Barcelona
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partner 8

Nom: Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association Ltd
Ville: Dublin
Pays/Région:
Pays:
Type d'organisation: Autres
Site Internet:

Partenaire

Partner 9

Nom: DBO

Ville: Brussel

Pays/Région:

Pays:

Type d'organisation: Autres

Site Internet:

Partner 10

Nom: Scalconsult - Consultants, Lda

Ville: Santarém

Pays/Région:

Pays:

Type d'organisation: Autres

Site Internet:

Données du projet

Europapreneur presentation.ppt

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4614/prj/Europapreneur%20presentation.ppt>

project presentation in Finnish

Europapreneur uusi Suomeksi.pptx

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4614/prj/Europapreneur%20uusi%20Suomeksi.pptx>

project presentation in Finnish

Produits

- 1 Europapreneur training toolkit

Produit 'Europapreneur training toolkit'

Titre: Europapreneur training toolkit

Type de Produit: Site Internet

Texte marketing: Europapreneur training toolkit

This is an e-learning and information platform where trainers can find and exchange useful documents, materials, links, and information to build a training session on Europapreneur.

Description: The 2 key outputs of the project are found at:

- <http://europapreneur.info/>
 - <http://europapreneur.net/>
 - Some supporting material may be found at <http://www.getresults-project.com/>
- The former is the Europapreneur Training Toolkit package relating in particular to this project and the latter is the website containing the information on the total of the Europapreneur programme involving issues beyond the scope of this project and wherein the Work Package No 5 is defined as this particular project (found at <http://www.europapreneur.net/en/work-programme>).

Cible: entrepreneurship trainers, tutors and support advisors, nascent entrepreneurs

Résultat: website

Domaine d'application:

Adresse du site Internet: www.europapreneur.info

Langues de produit: portugais
finnois
espagnol
slovène
anglais
néerlandais

Project Tags

The project belongs to the following group(s):

EQF (<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/thematicgroup/EQF>)