



Bricklaying Qualifications, Work and VET in Europe

142225-LLP-1-2008-1-BE-LEONARDO-LMP

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=6228>

Project Information

Title: Bricklaying Qualifications, Work and VET in Europe

Project Number: 142225-LLP-1-2008-1-BE-LEONARDO-LMP

Year: 2008

Project Type: Other EU-Projects

Individual Participation: Not possible

Deadline Participation:

Status: running

Country: EU-Centralised Projects

Marketing Text: The single European market has become a common labour market and therefore also a social area. Even though some policy areas, like education, remain the domain of national regulation and are strongly based on national traditions, European institutions are playing an increasing role. In the area of VET two main tools have been developed that are having an impact on the development of national VET-systems. The tools are the EQF and ECVET. Both are based on preconditions and concepts and are designed to reduce complexity. It is not clear however to what extent they take account of the complexity of national qualifications and VET systems. Do they succeed in making comparable what, at first glance, does not seem comparable? Taking one occupation, the bricklayer, the project assesses the complexity of national VET systems and evaluates the possibilities for and obstacles to applying the European tools.

Summary: The project is investigating possibilities, means and problems associated with implementation of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the development of a sectoral qualifications framework in relation to a particular occupation, bricklaying. Its aim is to further the recognition of bricklaying qualifications and competences by enhancing their transparency and comparability, thereby increasing the effectiveness of mobility and the quality of labour across Europe. It seeks to overcome some of the challenges posed to EQF implementation by the diversity of qualifications and VET.

The project extends over 24 months, from December 2008 to November 2010 and involves an evaluation of the nature and content of bricklaying qualifications in 8 EU countries (Belgium, England, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Poland), based on macro and company/site studies. It will include different learning pathways (formal and informal), associated curricula and job profiles. The different components will be related to National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs) (where applicable), the EQF, ECVET, and the emerging sectoral framework. The project is based on the active participation of European and national social partners, crucial to the application of EQF and ECVET to particular occupations, which relies on re-interpretation at sector and occupational levels. Key outputs will be: national focus groups and context reports on bricklaying qualifications and VET; a seminar and conference to discuss a transnational synthesis report; a final report in English on similarities and differences across Europe; and proposals for discussion by European Social Partners and their national members on a possible agreement concerning mutual recognition of qualifications.

Description: The Lisbon Strategy set out the strategic goal for the European Unions as follows: 'to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.'

One of the main outcomes of the Lisbon process designed to contribute to achieving this goal is the development and implementation of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and its corollary, the credit framework for vocational education and training (ECVET), designed to promote the mobility of labour by enhancing the comparability and transferability of qualifications and competences across Europe. At the same time, by improving the accessibility and transparency of qualifications, EQF/ECVET are designed to facilitate opportunities for lifelong learning.

The European construction industry, with a workforce of 14.5 million, a high level of

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labour mobility, and widespread on-the-job learning, exemplifies the significance and urgency of moves towards mutual recognition of qualifications. The rise in non-standard forms of employment – including subcontracting, self-employment and agency work - potentially undermines the value of qualifications and work-based training schemes. It is also sensitive to change – economic, social and technological - affecting work organization and skills required and necessitating a constant reassessment of qualifications.

A key precondition for mutual recognition of qualifications is the establishment of 'zones of mutual trust', i.e. a mutual understanding of qualifications concerning their nature, content, regulation and their value in the labour market. However, given the divergence of qualifications and VET across Europe, achieving recognition of qualifications will be a challenging process. The diversity ranges from highly formalised 'input'-oriented systems (e.g. in the Germanic countries) to much more flexible outcomes-based systems (the UK). There is a diverse range of VET in terms of governance, location, scope of activities, and knowledge requirements. While bricklaying in Germanic countries centres on a comprehensive notion of Beruf and a broad knowledge base, in England it is confined to a narrow range of tasks with minimal underpinning knowledge.

The project, which extends over 24 months, from December 2008 to November 2010, involves an evaluation of bricklaying qualifications in 8 EU countries (Belgium, England, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Poland), based on macro and company/site studies. It will examine similarities and differences in the nature, content, regulation and labour market currency of qualifications, competences and learning processes, thus providing a basis for discussions of zones of mutual trust. It will thereby identify the scope for and barriers to the implementation of EQF/ECVET and sectoral frameworks.

The overall aim of the project is to further the recognition of qualifications and competences in relation to bricklaying by enhancing their transparency and comparability, thereby increasing the effective mobility and quality of labour across Europe. It will do so by elucidating the cultural embeddedness of qualifications and competences within the broader institutional framework as well as their operationalisation at firm and site levels, thus enhancing understanding of the significance of bricklaying qualifications in practice. The specific objectives are to:

- Develop a framework for the comparative assessment of bricklaying qualifications, to be of relevance to other occupations;

- Assess and compare the nature, content and regulation of different qualifications and VET for bricklaying in 8 EU countries (Belgium, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, England, Poland and France), representing diverse VET and labour market systems;

- Identify the learning processes whereby qualifications are acquired in each country, including non-formal and informal learning;

- Describe the place and status of bricklaying within the sector, the qualifications, skills, competences and knowledge required of bricklayers, social and technological changes affecting these, and different bricklaying job profiles in each country;

- Relate bricklaying qualifications to the respective national qualifications frameworks (NQFs) (where applicable) and assess possibilities, means and problems concerning implementation of EQF/ECVET and the emerging sectoral framework in relation to bricklaying, including the development of zones of mutual trust;

- Develop proposals for discussion by the European construction Social Partners with their national members regarding a possible agreement concerning the mutual recognition of qualifications;

- Build on the active participation of European and national social partners in the sector, facilitate networking with key stakeholders, and disseminate the findings widely within and across countries, as a central strategy for gradually building up the involvement of key target users.

Themes: * Recognition, transparency, certification

Product Types: evaluation methods
website

Product information: Develop a framework for the comparative assessment of bricklaying qualifications, to

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Project homepage: www.bricklayer-llp.eu

Project Contractor

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Partner

Partner 1

Name: ECBO - Expertisecentrum Beroepsonderwijs
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Country: NL-Netherlands
Organization Type: continuing training institution
Homepage: <http://www.ecbo.nl>

Partner 2

Name: FORMEDIL
City: Roma
Country/Region: Lazio
Country: IT-Italy
Organization Type: continuing training institution
Homepage: <http://www.formedil.it>

Partner 3

Name: BIBB - Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung
City: Bonn
Country/Region: Nordrhein-Westfalen
Country: DE-Germany
Organization Type: continuing training institution
Homepage: <http://www.bibb.de>

Partner 4

Name: University of Westminster
City: London
Country/Region: London
Country: UK-United Kingdom
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy
Homepage:

Partner

Partner 5

Name: QCA - Qualification and Curriculum Authority
City: London
Country/Region: London
Country: UK-United Kingdom
Organization Type: research institution
Homepage: <http://www.qca.org.uk>

Partner 6

Name: FVB-FFC
City: Brussels
Country/Region: Bruxelles Cap, Brussel Hof
Country: BE-Belgium
Organization Type: continuing training institution
Homepage: <http://www.debouw.be>

Partner 7

Name: Budowlani
City: Warsaw
Country/Region: Mazowieckie
Country: PL-Poland
Organization Type: trade union organisation
Homepage: <http://www.zzbudowlani.pl>

Partner 8

Name: 3F Byggegrupper in co-operation with BAT
City: Copenhagen
Country/Region: Kobenhavns Amt
Country: DK-Denmark
Organization Type: trade union organisation
Homepage: <http://www.batkartellet.dk>

Partner

Partner 9

Name: Kings College London
City: London
Country/Region: London
Country: UK-United Kingdom
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy
Homepage: <http://www.klc.ac.uk>

Project Files

2008_1929_FR_Bricklayer-public.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/2008_1929_FR_Bricklayer-public.pdf

Bricklaying Qualifications - Final report Public part

Bricklaying_qualifications_PDF final.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/Bricklaying_qualifications_PDF%20final.pdf

The brochure "Bricklaying is more than Flemish Bond" is presenting the final results of the project. Beside a transnational synthesis report, it also includes recommendations for establishing mutual recognition of European Bricklaying qualifications and country reports from all eight participating countries.

Conceptual framework.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/Conceptual%20framework.pdf>

Synthesis report.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/Synthesis%20report.pdf>

transnational synthesis report de.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/transnational%20synthesis%20report%20de.pdf>

transnational synthesis report dk.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/transnational%20synthesis%20report%20dk.pdf>

transnational synthesis report fr.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/transnational%20synthesis%20report%20fr.pdf>

transnational synthesis report gb.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/transnational%20synthesis%20report%20gb.pdf>

transnational synthesis report it.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/transnational%20synthesis%20report%20it.pdf>

transnational synthesis report nl.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/transnational%20synthesis%20report%20nl.pdf>

transnational synthesis report pl.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prj/transnational%20synthesis%20report%20pl.pdf>

Products

- 1 Bricklaying is more than Flemish Bond
- 2 Transnational Synthesis Report
- 3 www.bricklayer
- 4 Bricklaying Qualifications - Public part final report

Product 'Bricklaying is more than Flemish Bond'

Title: Bricklaying is more than Flemish Bond

Product Type: others

Marketing Text: The "Bricklayer" project intended to investigate opportunities and hindrances in using the EQF. Based on a conceptual framework, that is also applicable for other professions and sectors, an in-depth analysis of vocational training for Bricklayers in eight European countries was elaborated. The research provided the analytical basis to discuss similarities and differences between the national systems and is, based on this, also discussing weak points of the EQF and how to improve conditions for the mutual recognition of qualifications. The Brochure "Bricklaying is more than Flemish Bond" is providing an insight in vocational education structures and practices for Bricklaying from eight European countries and discusses opportunities and difficulties in applying the EQF on sector level. The brochure provides proposals on how to improve and facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications and contains also some conclusions from the European Social Partner organisations.

Description: The Brochure "Bricklaying is more than Flemish Bond" is presenting the main results of the Bricklayer projects. It includes eight summaries of the country reports, mainly providing detailed information about the different aspects of the national vocational education of Bricklayers, including information on the construction sector, the legal framework, curricular, the role of social partner organisations, learning practices and bricklaying at the labour market. The main part of the brochure is the transnational synthesis report. It is analysing the national reports and makes a distinction between three groups of systems. The report is discussing the concepts backing the EQF and is also presenting proposals for the improvement of the EQF as well as for facilitating the mutual recognition of qualifications. Additionally, the brochure encompasses a report on the SQF-CON project, that has aimed at presenting a model for the application of the EQF for the whole construction sector. Finally, the brochure presents some reflection from the European Social partner organisations for the construction sector about the project results and further steps towards the mutual recognition of qualifications.

Target group: Social Partner organisations from both, national as well as European level. Experts for vocational training in the construction sector and experts dealing with EU policies on vocational education.

Result: The results presented with the brochure are as follows:
A transnational synthesis report, grouping the different national systems, discussing the common ground for bricklaying throughout Europe, discussing the concepts on which the EQF is based, proposing how to improve the application of EQF on sector level, how to improve zones of mutual trust, how to create a common framework for the comparison of qualifications within the EQF and ECEVET.
Eight country reports on the respective education of Bricklayers.
Proposals for establishing mutual recognition of European Bricklaying qualifications.
Some considerations of the European Social Partner organisations for the construction sector.

Area of application: National and EU-level.

Homepage: www.bricklayer-llp.eu

Product Languages: English

Product 'Transnational Synthesis Report'

Title: Transnational Synthesis Report

Product Type: others

Marketing Text: The “Transnational Synthesis Report” is presenting the overall outcome of the project. It is presenting research results from one profession in one specific sector but however, many of its results are transferable to other sectors. And the conclusions regarding the EQF and proposals made to improve the overall comparison of qualifications within EQF and ECVET.

Description: The “Transnational Synthesis Report” includes a comparison of the vocational education systems and practices for Bricklayer and is discussing opportunities and hindrances in applying the EQF. The report also discusses how to improve the application on sector level and is proposing elements for the creation of a common framework for the comparison of qualifications within the EQF and ECVET.

Target group: Social Partner organisations from both, national as well as European level. Experts for vocational training in the construction sector and experts dealing with EU policies on vocational education.

Result: A document of some 16 pages. the document is available in seven languages, i.e. DA, DE, EN, FR, IT, NL and PL.

Area of application: National and EU-level.

Homepage: www.bricklayer-llp.eu

Product Languages: Danish

Product 'www.bricklayer'

Title: www.bricklayer

Product Type: website

Marketing Text: The www.bricklayer webpage is a result of the Leonardo Da Vinci project "Bricklaying Qualifications, Work and VET in Europe". The webpage is presenting the main project results. The webpage also gives the opportunity to contact the project partners.

Description: Among others, the webpage gives access to the following documents.
Full country reports from eight European Countries. A synthesis report after the first phase of research activities and a transnational synthesis report in eight languages. This transnational Synthesis report is presenting the overall project results and is also presenting proposals on how to improve the application of the EQF on sector level and how to improve the comparison of qualifications.
Further the webpage is providing more related material and links to other projects with relations to this project.

Target group: Stakeholders from VET areas and social partners from all sectors.

Result: A Webpage providing access to the main project results and related information.

Area of application: National and European level as well as all sectors.

Homepage: www.bricklayer-llp.eu

Product Languages:

Product 'Bricklaying Qualifications - Public part final report'

Title: Bricklaying Qualifications - Public part final report

Product Type: others

Marketing Text: This document is intended to give you a clear understanding of the European project entitled "Bricklayer". It is directed at those interested in the development of the construction sector and, more specifically, in Vocational Education and Training (VET) in construction, as well as at stakeholders from other sectors. Twelve partners from eight countries, including the two sectoral social partner organisations from the European Construction sector, EFBWW and FIEC, are involved in the project. All partners are familiar with the sector and experienced in VET policy and practice.

The overall aim of the project is to facilitate the recognition of qualifications and competences in relation to bricklaying by enhancing their transparency and comparability, thereby increasing the effective mobility and quality of labour across Europe.

Description: In the first phase of the project eight national context reports were produced based on an in-depth analysis of VET for bricklayers, the institutional frameworks and working practices, including expectations regarding future changes. The research was based on a conceptual framework which guided all research activities. The methodology used and the resulting framework for the comparative assessment of bricklaying qualifications is of relevance to other sectors too. Based on the national context reports a synthesis report was drafted which identifies important similarities and differences across bricklaying qualifications and VET systems. These were explored further in the second phase of the study and provided useful information for discussions on the value of the European Qualification Framework (EQF).

Another important aim of the project, critical for the mutual recognition of qualifications, was to facilitate a network of key stakeholders. We seek to sustain the contacts, created during the project, over the long term.

Furthermore, the main findings of the project will continue to be on the agenda of the European sectoral Social Dialogue, in order to ensure an adequate follow-up with the involvement of the national social partners as well as with other stakeholders concerned. The construction sector is not only a sector in motion in terms of markets and technology, but also in terms of qualifications and therefore, VET structures. The website may be used as a platform for the dissemination of information as well as for facilitating discussions between stakeholders.

It is intended that the research instruments and conceptual framework may be adapted for future research activities, also in relation to other sectors. To this end, we would invite you to visit the project website and to evaluate the different reports and tools.

Target group: Social Partner organisations from both, national as well as European level. Experts for vocational training in the construction sector and experts dealing with EU policies on vocational education.

Result: The outputs of the project are:

- A framework for the assessment of bricklaying qualifications of relevance to other sectors and occupations.
- National context reports on the institutional framework of VET and qualifications in bricklaying (produced during the first phase).
- A transnational synthesis report drawing out differences and similarities.
- National bricklaying reports based on micro-level investigation of firms and training providers identifying the detailed components of bricklaying qualifications and job profiles of bricklayers as well as current and expected changes (including the result of the national context reports).
- A trans-national evaluation of the ways in which bricklaying qualifications can be aligned with national frameworks (where applicable), a possible European sectoral

Product 'Bricklaying Qualifications - Public part final report'

Result: framework, EQF and ECVET.

- Proposals for discussion of a possible agreement on trans-national recognition of bricklaying qualifications, including through establishing zones of mutual trust and identifying both possibilities and difficulties.

Area of application: National and EU-level.

Homepage: www.bricklayer-llp.eu

Product Languages: English

product files

2008_1929_FR_Bricklayer-public.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6228/prd/4/1/2008_1929_FR_Bricklayer-public.pdf
Bricklaying Qualifications - Public part final report

Events

Final seminar on bricklaying qualifications, work and VET in Europe

Date 26.11.2010

Description Conference to present the final report, the framework and the proposals for discussion of possible trans-national recognition. This event seeks to disseminate the findings as widely as possible and discuss the possibilities for adopting the framework and discussion proposals on a wider scale.

Target audience Project partners and EU key stakeholders.

Public Closed event

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Time and place 26th November 2010

Project Tags

The project belongs to the following group(s):

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