

Del. 4 –

Guidelines on Methodologies to be used at National Seminars

Purpose/Scope

The purpose of the present document is to give, with sufficient detail, a structured guidebook on the main concept behind the organisation of the National seminars in each of the partner countries.

As the project's activities will be divided between Portugal, Italy, Hungary, Romania and Poland, it will be important to present a harmonised approach to the seminars being prepared for the project.

The document will be divided into three main parts:

1. **Project framework and application to seminars** – The first section will take the know-how and previous experience of the Swedish partner (LTU) and taking the elements that have a good chance of being successfully adapted to the realities of the remaining partner countries;
2. **Preliminary Framework/Structure of Seminars** – As a way to plan ahead and with sufficient time, the actual structure of the seminars will be planned and, also, to further ensure that it will be possible for partners to follow one single structure when organising their own Seminars, it will be important to outline the major aspects of the seminars and the work that will be carried out by the participants;
3. **Foreseen tools/methodologies to be used at Seminars** – As a follow-up to point 2, the partnership will look to introduce specific tools and methodologies during the seminars, in order to increase the audience's attention as well as to ensure a proper degree of feedback and overall quality control of these activities;

Through these three main points, it is expected to plan all the major aspects of the seminars (both at the level of the students as well as at the level of the schools) well in advance of their implementation in 2012.

Project Framework and application to Seminars

Based on the expertise of Lulea Technical University and their good connections with the Swedish Welding Commission (SVETS), the main approach that is meant to underlie all activities of the project and, more particularly, that will orient the consortium's structuring of the seminars, will be focused on two main themes:

1. Improving the overall appeal of the welding activity in a general term, towards the market and make it an interesting professional opportunity for young people;
2. To contribute to the reduction of qualified welders available at the European level and to promote the importance and added-value of qualified welding personnel;

Due to the organisation of the project and the expected activities that were foreseen in the proposal, these two approaches are directly linked to the organisation of the two different types of seminars planned for the 2nd year of the project.

The current reality is that of a general lack of qualified welding personnel throughout Europe, a situation which is furthermore worsened by the fact that a substantial percentage of currently working welders are of advanced age and liable to retire in a near future, which will increase the degree of shortage.

A bad situation is made worse by the commonly agreed perception of welding and the welding profession as a career without positive prospects and carrying considerable risks to the worker and the environment.

In this way, the importance of successfully organising the ACCESSWELD seminars is clear. These will be relevant contributions in reversing the already mentioned trend and will be, furthermore, adapted to the different countries present in the consortium.

Two types of seminars will be able to address separate issues. The student seminars will be primarily oriented to giving young audiences (at the secondary level) a different approach to the welding activity, both in terms of the improvements to the actual quality of the workers' conditions as well as in terms of presenting the profession's very real career advantages and opportunities.

On the other hand, the seminars oriented towards the actual schools, their teaching and managing staff, will be focused more on the issue of increasing, in the medium-to-long term the number of qualified welding personnel, by presenting secondary schools in the participating countries with the possibility of becoming a part of the EWF harmonised system for the training and qualification of welders. In this way, it is expected for younger audiences to become more familiar with the welding activity as well as to better understand the potential benefits of a career in welding that they can actually follow.

With these main goals in mind, it will be helpful to outline a preliminary structure of the actual seminars.

Preliminary Structure/Framework of Seminars

As there will be two types of seminars to be organised in the scope of the project, it will be necessary to implement different activities for both types of events.

- Secondary school seminars

As already stated, the main purpose of the secondary school seminars is to give the attendees (mainly to be composed of teaching staff, directors) an idea of the existing harmonized system for training and qualification of welders, as well as the possibility of the mentioned schools to participate in the system, by offering EWF approved welding courses to their students.

The activities of the seminars will be centred on presentations of the EWF system, its main structures, bodies, training guidelines and all relevant information in terms of training and qualification. The idea is to give the attending schools a complete overview of the EWF system, in order for them to become aware of the possibilities that the schools have in becoming a part of the system.

The events will foresee a good amount of Q&A and roundtable discussions between the participants, as it is important to provide in fullest detail the necessary steps for secondary schools which are interested in becoming part of the system, as Authorised Training Bodies (ATBs).

- Student Seminars

The organisation of the “student seminars” will have a slightly different focus, as the attendees will be mainly made of secondary school students, overall, a younger audience.

The main purpose of the student seminars will be to present the attendees with the potential and real benefits of following a career in welding. The events will be important opportunities to promote the welding profession in the participating countries and to reach different audiences that are not too familiar with the sector.

It is the idea of the partnership to present to secondary students a good amount of information in terms of how they can become welders, what different types of qualifications exist. It will be important to reinforce the good career prospects that a trained welder can have for a company and the added-value of professional welders to the current welding markets.

The structure of the seminars is meant to encourage participants to participate actively in the activities, in order to have them make their own descriptions of what they understand as a welder, what is their view of the profession and similar perspectives. On the other hand, it is expected to be able to present the developed software at these events, as it is the secondary school students who are supposed to be the main target audiences for this particular product of the project.

During the seminars, some time will be reserved to present the software, as well as give some time to the participants to try out the game and show their own opinion of its added-value and its more positive aspects as well as what they consider to be the main weaknesses and faults. In order to do this, participants will be given appropriate questionnaires in which they can register their own views on the software.

Foreseen tools & methodologies to be used at seminars

The following section can present a very early proposal for several materials and/or specific methodologies that can be foreseen to be used at the separate events.

It should be noted that as preparation for the seminars progresses, more specific details will be prepared, and it will be possible to include in this document the actual contents of the materials to be used, as well as detailed agendas for both types of events.

- **Secondary School Seminars**

Considering the purpose of the seminars for the school administrations, the main materials to be used at the meetings, can be expected to include:

- Presentations to the participants, detailing relevant information about the EWF system, in particular, focus should be given to the structure and organisational layout of the system, main bodies, etc;
- Detailed description of the courses that can be offered by Authorised Training Bodies, in the system;
- Specific information for secondary schools on necessary steps needed for each to obtain the status of Authorised Training Bodies;
- Distribution of brochures & promotional material concerning the system;

The materials described are meant to be given to the participants, in order to facilitate their understanding of the EWF system. In addition, the seminars will involve presentations given by the project participants, both EWF and also remaining members, as a way to show their own experiences

in the system and the benefits of bringing the educational communities of the participating countries closer to the system.

As the focus of the school seminars are to be different from the scope of the student seminars, the approach foreseen for the latter will be adapted for the specific audience that is expected to attend.

- **Students' Seminars**

The focus of the students' seminars will be mainly related to giving secondary students attending, an overview of main things to expect from a career in the welding activity. The main topics will be centred on the positive trends in the welding profession that have made this an attractive career opportunity, with very good financial prospects and a good degree of mobility at the company level. Furthermore, there is an ongoing European-wide demand for professional welders, as they are becoming increasingly harder to find. A very general view of this framework can be presented as follows:

1. Accessing a career in welding;
2. Different qualification options from a harmonized training & qualification system;
3. The wide ranging impact of the welding profession;
4. Positive perspectives on professional pay and remuneration;
5. Current Europe wide needs for professional welders - Prospective Opportunities;

Through these main topics, it is expected to give students a greater appreciation for this profession, providing the idea that welding is much more than a risky activity, with high health risks for those involved.

An important element for the students' seminars will be the presentation of the ACCESSWELD computer game, to be developed during the project and expected to be ready for the beginning of the seminars.

This will be an important element in the consortium's strategy of introducing welding to younger audiences, through alternative methodologies, namely, ones to which younger audiences can actually relate.

The presentation of the game at these seminars will also be important due to the feedback that the audience can provide in terms of improvements to the presented material. As the main targets of the software, comments and critical review of the software will be important to allow improvements be made to the first versions of the software.