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I CARE project concludes its **first year!** This last 2011 newsletter provides a focus on the outcomes and results achieved so far and it explains next steps of project implementation. Latest news from I CARE and the ECVET world are provided as well.

The 1st year of the I CARE project

I CARE is an **ECVET pilot project** funded by the European Commission in the context of the European testing of the ECVET framework (European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training). The I CARE project focuses on the development of a methodology to facilitate labour market integration of migrant

workers in the **personal care and social work sector**. The first year of the I CARE project has seen all partners involved in the core of project development and in networking and exchange activities with other projects and external stakeholders, including the participation in ECVET seminars across Europe.

I CARE achievements

The background analysis and research at the core of the **Inception Phase** have brought to light the state-of-the-art in participating countries (Italy, Germany, Romania, and Poland) in relation to the personal care and social work sector, as well as critical issues and best practices across Europe.

The **first two results** produced in this phase have been the collection and description of models and tools in participating countries, highlighting both gaps

and common learning outcomes/units, ([Identification of Qualifications relating to Personal Care and Social Work in Partner Countries](#)) and the analysis of existing ECVET related methodologies ([Analysis of Existing Methodological Approaches for the Application of ECVET at the National, Regional and Sectoral Level](#))

Based on those premises, I CARE partners have now come to identify a **methodological approach** for establishing a common reference framework linked to ECVET.



New Result

Synthesis of Data: Assessment of Transparency of the Qualifications Concerned and Identification of the Most Suitable Methodological Approach

The **third result**, recently published on I CARE website, concludes the first phase and lays the ground for future activities by identifying the model to be used during subsequent phases.

The document includes:

- The list of the **5 professional profiles** to be included in future development activities. From the initially planned seven profiles, two have

in fact been excluded (cleaner and housekeeper) according to the results of the analysis undertaken

- The **methodological approach** chosen for testing and validating the recognition of competences based on the ECVET principles
- Phases of development ahead, including the **testing phase** in Italy and partner countries.

[Download the new result](#)

Activities in progress



We are now working on the *Implementation of ECVET Principles and Technical Specifications in Relation to Personal Care and Social Work Qualifications*, with the objective of making them fully coherent with the ECVET framework, thus enhancing interoperability with different countries and learning settings. The activities currently under implementation are:

- Description of identified vocational qualifications in terms of **units of learning outcomes** according to ECVET specifications
- Development and application of a suitable methodology for

assigning and applying **ECVET points** to the selected qualifications, as well as for the evaluation of learning outcomes (including evaluation of prior learning acquired in non-formal or informal contexts)

- Development of a suitable methodology for the **evaluation of learning outcome** (including non formal or informal contexts)

Among the **expected results**:
 1) Methods, tools and criteria for the evaluation of learning outcomes (field observation, attitudinal tests, assessment sessions, interviews, ...)
 2) Guidelines for ECVET points assignment.

More information on current [I CARE activities](#)

Activities for the next year

The second year starts with the Implementation of ECVET Framework on Learning Outcomes Transfer Process among partner countries with the objective of defining the **I CARE Model**.

To this end, the following activities will be undertaken :

- Development of a learning outcome transfer process/model,
- Testing of the methodology for the evaluation of learning outcomes and the transfer model in Lombardy Region,
- Testing of the methodology for the evaluation of learning outcome

and the transfer model in partner countries

- Definition of a framework document of cooperation and networking.

Among the **expected results**:

- 1) Testing activities
- 2) Final guidelines, methods, tools and criteria for the evaluation of learning outcomes
- 3) Memorandum of Understanding.

More information on future [I CARE activities](#)

Call for stakeholders



Please consult the [I CARE website](#) for updates on registration process

Working in consultation with experts/organisations/practitioners from each occupational field covered by the I CARE project is essential to ensure that our tools and methods are empirically derived, neither too abstract nor too detailed, responsive to labour market needs and ready to adapt to its fast changes.

Which is why the I CARE project **calls for experts/organisations /practitioners** to participate in the second year of the project implementation, and to be directly involved in the model development and during the experimentation phase.

During the first months of 2012, we would therefore like to directly

involve in order to gather your feedback on methodologies and tools identified for the five professional profiles.

Taking into account I CARE focus on the personal care and social work as occupational areas to be tested, we are looking for:

- Trainers and managers in VET
- Job advisors/practitioners of job placement centres/services
- Competence assessment specialists
- Counsellors
- Experts in personal care training
- Representatives of migrants' associations
- Workers in the field of personal care and social work

News

A new partner joined the I CARE project
CISL Brianza entered the I CARE consortium. CISL Brianza, a trade union organisation which counts around 55 thousand members, promotes legal and labour protection of workers with a system of services for workers and their families, including a migrant 'counter' targeted to migrant workers - More information on [I CARE partners](#)

Web conference with COLOR project - 6 December 2011:
 The I CARE project has participated in a web conference promoted by the C.O.L.O.R. project, focusing on:

- ECVET and learning outcomes approach within the European Strategy for Mobility
- Regions networking for the mobility of learning outcomes
- Work and persons in mobility (last Caritas Report)

I CARE on ECVET Magazine - November 2011:
 The issue n.6 of the ECVET Magazine includes an article presenting the 2nd generation of ECVET pilot projects which started their activities in January 2011. Among the 8 funded pilot projects the I CARE one

We have tried ECVET: Lessons from the first generation of ECVET pilot projects' - Brussels, 22-23 February 2012
 Final conference on the first run of ECVET pilot projects to develop key messages and lessons learnt from the experiences of the 1st generation of projects (11 projects, with 108 partners from 21 countries). The focus will be on their contribution to lifelong learning policy goals and in bridging differences between national VET systems. More information and the link for pre-registration are available on the [ECVET pilot project website](#)

