



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

EU Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-13
Subprogramme Leonardo da Vinci - Call for proposal 2011 EAC/49/10
Priority "ECVET for transparency and recognition of learning outcomes and
qualifications (LEO-TraInno-11)"
Action "Transfer of Innovation"
Protocol Code LLP-LdV-TOI-11-IT-685
Project Unique Code (CUP – Codice Unico di progetto): G92F11000080006



European Nature System - ENS:

An ECVET process to put in transparency and recognise across Europe the learning outcomes and the qualifications of the professional figures in the nature-based tourism sector

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WP 8 - Dissemination and exploitation of project results

Set of Policy Recommendations

(table of suggestions)

for project results transfer to sectoral and territorial decision-makers

September 2013

Premise

The set of “**policy recommendations**” proposed by this documents is addressed to the appropriate sectoral and territorial **decision-makers** at local, regional, national and European level, since having institutional competence or sectoral relevance on Vocational Education and Training – VET, and on tourism activities: in other words, **public institutions competent in VET and tourism**, and **tourism social partners and professional organisations**.

In fact, these decision-makers are **key actors** in the **process** of **endorsement** and **implementation** at **sectoral** and **territorial level** of the **results** coming from the European Leonardo da Vinci project “European Nature System - **ENS**: An ECVET process to put in transparency and recognise across Europe the learning outcomes and the qualifications of the professional figures in the nature-based tourism sector”, focused on **transparency and recognition of competences and qualifications** of people operating in **nature-based tourism sector**, applying the European tools and frameworks *European Qualification Framework - **EQF***, *European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training - **ECVET***, and *Europass*.

The **main result** produced during the ENS project life-cycle (October 2011 - September 2013), is the definition and formalisation at European level (Vienna, 29/02/2013 and 01/03/2013) of the **Memorandum of Understanding – MoU ECVET** for the European qualification in the nature-based and rural tourism sector, relating to the specific sectoral professional figures of the *Environmental educator*, the *Nature- and Rural Tourism Guide*, and the *Rural and Agro-Tourism Accommodation Manager*, described in terms of learning outcomes (unit/s, parts of unit/s, associated ECVET credit), and establishing the **European correspondence** for the assessment, transfer, and accumulation processes **of learning outcomes** achieved in formal, informal and non formal contexts.

In effect, at the aim of MoU ECVET enforcement at territorial and sectoral level, which is essential to give to interested professionals and trainees the effective possibility to obtain putting in transparency and recognition of acquired learning outcomes described by the MoU, it's needed that in each Country it proceeds the **process of MoU adhesion by competent and interested key actors**, started within the project with the adhesion of project partners and associated organisations: representative and VET organisations, and also SMEs, of nature-based tourism sector at national, regional and local level (in Italy, *Aris Formazione e Ricerca Società Cooperativa* and *Consorzio Itaca*; in Spain, *Koan Consulting SL* and *Fundacion Ecoagroturismo*; in Germany, *KATE-Kontaktstelle für Umwelt & Entwicklung*; in Latvia, *Latvijas lauku turisma asociacija "Lauku celotajs"*; in Austria, *BEST Institut für berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personaltraining GmbH*), public institutions competent in VET and tourism matter at regional level (in particular, the Italian *Regione Umbria*), and European communication specialised organisations like the Belgian *Diesis Coop scrl-fs*).

The **involvement in the MoU ECVET of new competent and/or interested key actors is strongly needed** because the will of them has a direct influence on the possibility and on the extension of envisaged ECVET process: e.g., the participation of public institutions competent in VET will determine the territorial extension of MoU provisions application, while the participation of sectoral social partners and VET providers is fundamental to ensure to interested professionals and trainees concrete opportunities of application of MoU provisions in terms of recognition and certification of achieved related learning outcomes and ECVET credits, in compliance with national and regional rules on certification ways and procedures, formal, non-formal and informal learning validation, qualification bodies.

Policy recommendations

- 1) The European Union is supporting, by specific common principles and tools (in particular, *European Qualification Framework - EQF, European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training - ECVET, European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - ECTS and Europass*), the transparency and recognition of learning outcomes and qualifications: the application of these principles and tools, by public institutions competent in VET and by sectoral social partners of employees and of employers in the specific European territorial and sectoral contexts, is very important for workers and trainees, since the concrete possibility of transparency and recognition of achieved learning outcomes is a requisite to allow an effective perspective of mobility beyond the borders of national (and also regional, in the EU countries – like Italy - in which the legislative competence on qualification and certification matter is attributed to the Regions) VET systems, the barriers to mobility within a specific VET system and in particular across the economic activity sectors, the obstacles outside the educational system and in particular those related to the recognition of learning outcomes acquired in informal and non formal contexts.
- 2) Since the experimental application and implementation of the European common principles and tools for transparency and recognition of learning outcomes and qualifications it's supported by the EU through specific financing instruments within the European programmes (in particular, the *Leonardo da Vinci* initiatives within the *Lifelong Learning Programme* and, up 2014, within the new *Erasmus for All* programme), it's very important that the public institutions competent in VET and the sectoral social partners learn from the results of the realised experimentations, and also try to take part to these programmes.
- 3) Considering that the EU programmes supporting the experimental application and implementation of the European common principles and tools for transparency and recognition of learning outcomes and qualifications, are conceived to sustain multilateral interventions integrating various kind of competent and interested public and private organisations in different EU countries, the participation to these

programmes requires a networking approach, able to gather the relevant key actors: public institutions competent in VET, social partners of concerned sector, and also VET providers (and, if the programme allows interventions at academic level, public institutions competent in HE - Higher Education and HE providers too); furthermore, if the intervention concerns a specific relevant issue (as tourism in ENS) this networking approach needs to be enlarged also to public institutions competent on the specific issue. Besides, considering ENS and the VET in the tourism sector, this networking approach could in perspective valorise the coordination bodies gathering at national/European level relevant key actors typologies : for example, for public Italian institutions competent in VET and tourism, the coordination bodies *Conferenza delle Regioni* (Conference of Regions) and *Conferenza Stato-Regioni* (State-Regions Conference).