



## ERF Key Competencies

These key competences provide a reference framework to support national and European efforts to achieve the objectives they define. This framework is mainly intended for policy makers, education and training providers, employers and learners.

### Eight key competencies according to ERF

European Reference Framework (ERF) defines eight key competences and describes the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes related to each of these. These key competences are:

- \* **communication in the mother tongue**, which is the ability to express and interpret concepts, thoughts, feelings, facts and opinions in both oral and written form (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and to interact linguistically in an appropriate and creative way in a full range of societal and cultural contexts;
- \* **communication in foreign languages**, which involves, in addition to the main skill dimensions of communication in the mother tongue, mediation and intercultural understanding. The level of proficiency depends on several factors and the capacity for listening, speaking, reading and writing;
- \* **mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology**. Mathematical competence is the ability to develop and apply mathematical thinking in order to solve a range of problems in everyday situations, with the emphasis being placed on process, activity and knowledge. Basic competences in science and technology refer to the mastery, use and application of knowledge and methodologies that explain the natural world. These involve an understanding of the changes caused by human activity and the responsibility of each individual as a citizen;
- \* **digital competence** involves the confident and critical use of information society technology (IST) and thus basic skills in information and communication technology (ICT);
- \* **learning to learn** is related to learning, the ability to pursue and organize one's own learning, either individually or in groups, in accordance with one's own needs, and awareness of methods and opportunities;
- \* **social and civic competences**. Social competence refers to personal, interpersonal and intercultural competence and all forms of behaviour that equip individuals to participate in an effective and constructive way in social and working life. It is linked to personal and social well-being. An understanding of codes of conduct and customs in the different environments in which individuals operate is essential. Civic competence, and particularly knowledge of social and political concepts and structures (democracy, justice, equality, citizenship and civil rights), equips individuals to engage in active and democratic participation;
- \* **sense of initiative and entrepreneurship** is the ability to turn ideas into action. It involves creativity, innovation and risk-taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives. The individual is aware of the context of his/her work and is able to seize opportunities that arise. It is the foundation for acquiring more specific skills and knowledge needed by those establishing or contributing to social or commercial activity. This should include awareness of ethical values and promote good governance;
- \* **cultural awareness and expression**, which involves appreciation of the importance of the creative expression of ideas, experiences and emotions in a range of media (music, performing arts, literature and the visual arts).

These key competences are all interdependent, and the emphasis in each case is on critical thinking, creativity, initiative, problem solving, risk assessment, decision taking and constructive management of feelings.

### Coordinator



### DIMITRA ITD

Palaiologou 19, 412 23,  
Larissa, Greece  
Tel: +30 2410 554024,  
Fax: +30 2410 554028  
contact@dimitra.gr  
www.dimitra.gr

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www.cerf.gr

### CERF project

is a two year Leonardo da Vinci (Transfer of Innovation) project which aims to develop innovative training methodologies and curricula for five of the key competences according to European Reference Framework-ERF and a multimedia certification model for acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes of key competence: Sense of Initiative and Entrepreneurship



CERF project aims to develop innovative training methodologies and curricula for five of the key competences according to European Reference Framework-ERF

### CERF PROJECT Rational & Objectives

At the end of 2006, the Council and the European Parliament adopted a European Framework for Key Competences (ERF) for Lifelong Learning. ERF identifies and defines eight key competences that citizens require for their personal fulfilment, social inclusion, active citizenship and employability in our knowledge-based society.

CERF-Certification Standard for European Reference Framework Key Competences, is a two year Transfer of Innovation project which aims to develop a training Curricula and a complete Trainers Package for five ERF Key Competences. A Multimedia Training Tool and a certification model for key competence: Sense of Initiative and Entrepreneurship will be also developed and disseminated as a useful tool for policy makers, and for education and training providers and learners, in order to make lifelong learning a reality for all.

### Key Competences

Key competences in the shape of knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to each context are fundamental for each individual in a knowledge-based society. They provide added value for the labor market, social cohesion and active citizenship by offering flexibility and adaptability, satisfaction and motivation. Because they should be acquired by everyone, this recommendation proposes a reference tool for European Union (EU) countries to ensure that these key competences are fully integrated into their strategies and infrastructures, particularly in the context of lifelong learning. Key competences for lifelong learning are a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to the context. They are particularly necessary for personal fulfilment and development, social inclusion, active citizenship and employment.

## Partners



### I - SKILLS

123 Vas. Sofias Avenue,  
115 21, Athens, Greece  
+30 210 6470026,  
info@i-skills.gr, www.i-skills.gr  
**Contact Person:**  
Paraskevas Christos



### FOLKUNIVERSITETET

Portalgatan 2A, Box 386,  
75 106, Uppsala, Sweden  
+46 18680000,  
info.uppsala@folkuniversitetet.se  
www.folkuniversitetet.se  
**Contact Person:** Rashidi Ali



### DOCUMENTA

Cardenal Cisneros 20, 1º,  
39 001, Santander, Spain  
+34 942 760707,  
info@documenta.es,  
www.documenta.es  
**Contact Person:**  
Farto Lopez Javier

### RINOVA

innovate, create & regenerate

### RINOVA

1 Lyric Square Hammersmith,  
W6 0NB, London, UK  
+44 (0)20 3170 6307,  
info@rinova.co.uk,  
www.rinova.co.uk  
**Contact Person:** Slater Imogen



### MMC

16 Imvrou Street,  
1055, Nicosia, Cyprus  
+357 22 466633,  
christiana@mmclearningsolutions.com,  
www.mmclearningsolutions.com  
**Contact Person:** Knais Christiana



### CHAMBER OF LARISSA

Papakyriazi 44 str,  
412 22, Larissa, Greece  
+30 2410 255388,  
info@larissa-chamber.gr,  
www.larissa-chamber.gr  
**Contact Person:**  
Manoulakas Emmanouil



## CERF develops Curriculum and Trainers Toolkit for 5 Key Competencies according to ERF

### Rational & Objectives

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The project objective is threefold: First, development and pilot implementation of a training curriculum and educational methodology for five out of the eight key competences defined by ERF as essential to European competitiveness and the establishment of a coherent society based on knowledge.

Second, develop a certification model for acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes for key competence: Sense of Initiative and Entrepreneurship, according to ERF. Third, to support dissemination and take-up of this reference tool among policy-makers, education providers, employers, and learners themselves to facilitate national-and European-level efforts towards commonly agreed objectives.



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## Digital competence

### How?

CERF organizes train-the-trainer seminars for five key competences according to ERF in partner countries (England, Spain, Sweden, Cyprus & Greece) and pilot trainings for groups at risk of social exclusion. Moreover, it organizes in all participating countries several educational and experiential workshops for policy makers, local authorities, enterprises,

### And more...

In combination with all the above, a Virtual European Community is developed for the exchange of ideas and good practices among stakeholders and as a vehicle to support continuous dissemination of education and certification of ERF key competencies for our ability to be successful in a constantly changing world of work.

### What can I do?

As a trainer or education provider interested in getting to know this methodology, you can participate in the train the trainer seminar organized in your country and then adapt CERF methodology accordingly on your training subject and target groups. As a trainee, you can acquire Key Competences by participating in a pilot training.

## CERF National Reports

In the framework of CERF project have been already conducted five national researches in relation to the current situation of integration of ERF concept and key competencies in educational system, labor market and VET sector in each participating country (Greece, Sweden, Spain, UK and Cyprus). The results of these national researches show clearly the necessity of the CERF project in order to be facilitated the dissemination and implementation of ERF concept and key competences both in general public and world of work and education.

## 5 ERF Key Competencies

The five ERF key competencies to be developed by CERF project. are:

- ✓ Communication in foreign languages
- ✓ Digital competence
- ✓ Social and civic competences
- ✓ Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
- ✓ Cultural awareness and expression