

PRESS RELEASE

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Training TAXI drivers for a safer and more competitive 24h on the road profession

The role of Taxis in the European urban and semi-urban environments is crucial: they are a fast and flexible transportation mode and they enhance mobility. Taxi-drivers belong to 'a 24h basis on-the-road profession', while the taxi-sector itself is characterized by an increasingly diverse workforce. During their daily routines professional **taxi-drivers face various situations** with regards to issues as, for example, **work and road safety, emergency cases and environmental concerns, calling for special knowledge and skills** on their part, in order to deal effectively with them.

To this end, the newly launched EU co-funded project with the acronym '**Taxistars**' will design and develop innovative, ICT-based educational material for professional taxi-drivers, taking under consideration the **training needs and the special characteristics of the profession**. The ultimate aim of the project is to contribute to the improvement of vocational education and training in the field, working towards a safer, more effective and competitive taxi-sector, enabling professional taxi-drivers to provide **high quality services**.

'Taxistars' is a 36 month initiative that will be developed by a transnational consortium of 9 expert actors in Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain. The project has been funded with support from the European Commission and the Lifelong Learning Programme, under the Leonardo da Vinci sub-programme.

The project Kick-off meeting took place in Athens, hosted by the Project Leader Militos Emerging Technologies & Services, in November, 22 & 23, 2012.

More detailed information will be soon available on the project website www.taxistars.eu (currently under construction).

INFORMATION www.taxistars.eu

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