



ERAZMUS + Ka2

EU Project: 2016-1-MK01-KA202-021665

*Recognition and Validation of learning outcomes and qualifications in nature-based and rural tourism sector in the framework of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training * ECVET)*

Multiplier Event - Skopje

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NATIONAL AGENCY FOR
EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMES AND MOBILITY

MULTIPLIER EVENT:

Recognition and validation of learning outcomes and qualifications in nature-based and rural tourism sector in the framework of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET ENS 2.0)

The event took place on 18th January at 11.30 in "Public Room" Skopje.

Balkania's representatives: Vlado Srbinovski, Leonida Penka Basha Rizaova and Mateja Srbinovska, have presented the project and its goals, completed activities and results accomplished during the past year and have presented the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Ljupcho Toshev, representative of the project partner Fondacija Agro Centar za Edukacija FACE, has presented the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET).

The multiplier event has been attended by representatives from: Ministry of Education and Science, PI Adult Education Center- Skopje, Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Bureau for Development of Education, Open Civic University for adult education "Koco Racin" – Skopje, Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics (Goce Delchev University - Stip), Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics – Gevgelija, Agency for promotion and support of tourism in Republic of Macedonia, Center for regional development – Tetovo, representatives of the travel sector and representatives of the NGO sector working in tourism and representative of the Mountaineering Sport Federation of Macedonia.

The Erasmus+ project ECVET ENS 2.0 has been presented to the attendees and has been explained that it is focusing on transparency and recognition of the competences and qualifications of the professionals working in nature-based and rural tourism sector, by implementing the European tools and frameworks - European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET).

The nature-based and rural tourism in Europe offers real and various possibilities for employment of lots of people in many and diverse activities and qualifications in the European countries and regions (mountain guide, speleological guide, operator in rural areas, environmental educator etc.) that very often are undefined regarding the learning outcomes. In some of the countries participating in this project, there are no official regulations or recognition of professions that actually exist on the labour market. Therefore we consider that there is a need for transparency and recognition of the learning outcomes of the professions in the rural tourism by implementing European tools, European framework and ECVET.

The project has started on 01st December 2016 and will be implemented for 30 months. Project's goal is to enable model for training for certification at European level of the professions in the nature-based tourism sector:

- **Nature and Rural Tourism Guide**
- **Rural and Agro-Tourism Accommodation Manager**

Project partners are 6 organisations from 3 countries: *Macedonia (A.B.A.T Balkania – Skopje; Fondacija Agro Centar za Edukacija FACE), Italy (Aris Formazione e Ricerca; Consorzio ITACA Società Cooperativa), Austria (BEST Institut für berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personaltraining GmbH) and Greece (American Farm School Post – Secondary Educational and Training Association).*

The participants have been informed about the activities and results accomplished so far:

1. Research on the current situation of the labour market for the existing professions and profiles in the vocational education and training systems in the participating countries and their

qualification in the qualification framework. We have selected 2 profiles to work with at European level.

2. Research and sharing of good practices and experiences in all participating countries regarding recognition of the learning outcomes and qualifications in the ECVET process – development of action plan

3. Update of the design of the common competence standards, also including new standards according to the labour market needs

4. Update and adjustment of the Memorandum of Understanding ECVET ENS accordingly the new competence standards and to distribute it to the stakeholders; Memorandum of Understanding for the ECVET ENS 2.0 project – revised accordingly to updated common professional standards for the already formalised common professional qualifications and for new competence standards emerging from labour market in nature-based tourism.

The Memorandum is a formal agreement between the project partners, public institutions competent in VET and tourism, sectoral social partners and VET providers at national/regional/local level, establishing the European correspondence for assessment, transfer, and accumulation of learning outcomes achieved in formal, informal and non formal contexts. It is expected that these activities will help in mobilizing the professionals in the nature-based and rural tourism sector, contributing to establishment of common training qualifications and standards.

Conclusions from the MULTIPLIER EVENT:

The event has initiated very useful discussions and sharing of opinions and legal provisions by the representatives of the institutions and the stakeholders, that will be of great benefit for successful implementation of the remaining project activities. There has been a discussion regarding the provisions and standards established with the Memorandum and has been agreed that after updating the Memorandum of Understanding with all project partners and their signature, the Memorandum will be sent to all interested participants of the event that have shown interest for future collaboration. During the event, we have come to conclusion that we have successfully included different categories of stakeholders, public institutions competent in VET and tourism, social partners in tourism and operators, other interested associations and VET and training providers in the relevant sector.

Therefore, with this event we gave additional effort for providing project related information to the stakeholders regarding the quality, relevance and effectiveness of the project results, in order to share the successful project results to the relevant decision makers at local/regional/national level and the results to be accepted and implemented by the end users.

The following project activity is update of the Memorandum of understanding and its signature during the next transnational project partners meeting on 20th March in Vienna, Austria.

ABAT Balkania - Skopje