

**Lifelong Learning Programme, Leonardo da Vinci
Transfer of Innovation**

Project No.: 2012-1-HU1-LEO05-05823

Project title: ECVET – HEALTH TOURISM

WP8 - Dissemination and exploitation of project results

SET OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

(table of suggestions)

for project results transfer to sectoral and territorial decision-makers

October 2014



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



PREMISE

The set of “**policy recommendations**” proposed by this document 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 “ECVET – HEALTH TOURISM”, focused on **transparency and recognition of competences and qualifications** of people operating in **health 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 ECVET – HEALTH TOURISM project life-cycle (November 2012 – October 2014), is the definition and formalisation at European level (March 2014) of the **Memorandum of Understanding – MoU ECVET** for the European qualification in the health tourism sector, relating to the specific sectoral professional figures of *Cosmetician*, *Fitness-wellness assistant*, and *Health-tourism 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 health tourism sector at national, regional and local level (in Hungary Várnai Consulting Oktatási és Munkaerő-piaci Szolgáltató Nonprofit Kft., International Wellness Institute Wellness – Fitness Oktatási Központ and EFEB Üzleti Szakközépiskola; in Italy Aris Formazione e Ricerca Società Cooperativa; in Romania COLEGIUL TEHNIC “TRAIAN VUIA”; in Slovakia Stredná odborná škola s vyučovacím jazykom maďarským - Szakközépiskola), private association competent in health tourism matter at national level (the Hungarian Magyar Egészségturizmus Marketing Egyesület) and also European communication specialised organisations (the Belgian Diosis 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 are 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+* 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 in 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 ECVET – HEALTH TOURISM) this networking approach needs to be enlarged also to public institutions competent on the specific issue. Besides, considering ECVET – HEALTH TOURISM project results, this networking approach could in perspective involve the coordination bodies gathering the relevant key actors' typologies in VET and tourism sector at regional/national/European level.