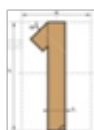




SKILLCO - An innovative project for facing skill gaps in the construction industry

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Why and how did this project start?

Despite the high levels of unemployment observed in the EU, in several Member States construction companies are confronted with difficulties in finding the right workers with the right skills.

In 2015, the construction sector in the EU represented 8.5% of the total GDP, more than 14 million workers and 3.2 million companies, the vast majority of them with less than 20 workers. It is also a sector with specific features such as, for example: high mobility of its workforce, changing working conditions (for example in order to take into account whether conditions), difficulty in attracting and retaining young people. Finally, it is a sector which plays a crucial role in "green" policies both at the EU and at the national level, as the man-made environment and surroundings are responsible for 40% of all the energy consumption in the EU. Within this framework, the anticipation of skills needs and the adaptation of training schemes are key ele-

ments for facing the observed skills gaps.

The SKILLCO project, coordinated by the Chamber of Construction and Building Materials Industry of Slovenia (CCIS CCBMIS), gathers social partners' organizations and training providers from Germany, Hungary and Slovenia, as well as FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation), the EU umbrella organization for employers in the construction industry. The three-year project started in December 2016 and is co-financed by the European Union Erasmus+ programme, Sector Skills Alliances. The main project idea came from the promoter CCIS CCBMIS from Slovenia based on the successful project BU.G.S.- Building green skills. In addition we include interests and needs from members of international non-formal sectoral CPD groups and VET topics from the FIEC EFBWW Multiannual Action Programme for the Sectoral European social dialogue of the construction industry 2016-2019.

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Main Goals of the project

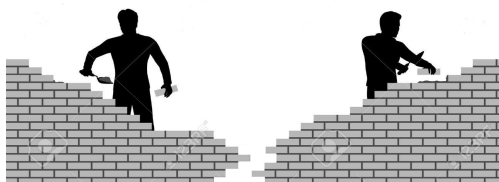
The main goals of the project will be to define and identify 4 existing and anticipated skill needs, to elaborate and define 2 Modules, learning units (A) and training courses (B), with the use of ECVET principles, that could be integrated in formal VET programmes or used as training courses. The intention for Module A is, on the one hand, to integrate the learning unit outcomes that will be elaborated in the framework of the project into the existing sectoral curricula, corresponding the 4th EQF level, and, on the other hand, to include them (where possible, due to the differences in the various education systems and where required with specific adaptations) in the national occupation standards and regular VET programmes. These goals therefore constitute first attempts to elaborate and implement comparable curricula in different countries, with the aim to foster trainees' and workers' mobility, but these objectives are reachable only through strong international collaboration between state partners, private sector partners and VET providers. Aim of the Module B is to fill the gap in sectoral skills among employees especially those who work in professions on 4EQF level in construction sector (as upskilling, reskilling etc.). Both Modules will be supported by a lot of video materials, photos and supporting training material integrated in custom-made app, specially designed for SKILLCO purposes and freely available in Google and Apple store.

National and EU organizations work together

In SKILLCO project sectoral employers' organizations and chambers (some of them also social partners), VET centres, national regulatory VET and EU sectoral umbrella organisation body joined for addressing the project idea and strengthen the further skills gaps in EU area via developing 2 Modules for the construction industry (pupils/students – A and employees – B). From preliminary project sectoral research before the project was actually prepared and started, following identification of skills gaps was recognized: databases



and IT support tools for bills of quantities, intelligent installations and its implementation, valuable vanishing sectoral skills, green skills in building (green buildings), (basic) knowledge on BIM, understanding of different project design (procurement) documentation, use of new and innovative and advanced construction products and building materials. In detail, focused project desk and field research is being carried out within the SKILLCO framework, based on previous findings from different national, international projects outcomes, CEDEFOP & ESCO research and reports and identified EU country skills shortage reports (CIF, CITB Etc.). Additional research among project partners, employers, ex-pupils (focus groups and online questionnaires) was carried out to select the main skill gaps and needs in construction sector and related building material industry. The main issues of the project are to define and identify existing and anticipated skill needs and to elaborate and define learning units, with the use of ECVET principles that could be integrated in formal VET programmes or used as training courses. Interested target groups are invited to join the SKILLCO initiative and support the results with disseminating or using them and further developing them in future sectoral skills via creation of Alliance for Advancement of VET for construction sector.





News About

SKILLCO Half Year Activities



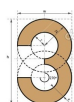
First insight into the skill gaps: Currently we are working on preparing, executing and analysing the first focus group meetings. We have already had the first focus group meeting in Slovenia, Germany and Hungary. A quick analysis of the Slovenian focus group meeting shows us that there are some problems with reading project documentation and communication. For a more detailed analysis, we will have to wait for the reports from other project partners. Meanwhile we are preparing for the second focus group meetings for employers' representatives in Germany, Hungary, and Slovenia at VET centres, planned for May 2017. Currently we are in the middle of preparation of general report on findings of skills gaps, based on re-

search in existing data sources and gathered information from focus groups and skill gaps identification questionnaires. The questionnaire for the former students of construction has shown that the students were lacking in gaining the following knowledge and skills in the process of education: new technologies, using professional calculations in practice, reading of building plans / preparing project documentation, use of IT tools in construction, etc.

Project partners will meet again in Kecskemét in Hungary, at the end of June 2017. Focus of project work meeting is presentation of last project months works and preparation of next project tasks and activities.



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Project Enhancing Sectoral Qualifications/Skills In the EU

Despite a relatively high level of unemployment, there are still lots of vacancies in the construction industry. Due to the rapid development of technology and knowledge and relatively high workforce mobility in the Single market, companies are finding it increasingly difficult to find competent workforce that could meet the work requirements of them on the market offered services. Partly this could be due to out-of-date VET systems, different (non-unified) VET models in EU and perhaps rare investing in upskilling of the employees for middle (4 EQF) skilled construction workers. Failing to see the importance of advanced and life-long education that aims to equip workers with the necessary qualifications (skills) to enter the labour market and stay employed may therefore result in a drop-in productivity for companies and in a higher risk of unemployment for workers. Workers, on the other hand, are facing the challenge of keeping up with the everchanging requirements of the sectoral needs, country specifics in construction sector, having possibility to acquire needed skills and constantly educate themselves in order to remain employable, competitive and productive.

These important issues require our urgent and sustained attention. In order to keep the construction sector up-to-date, workforce skills should be identified and addressed with precise and focused training offered. SKILLCO project is designed as a response to those needs.

The intention

SKILLCO intention is, on the one hand, to integrate the learning unit outcomes that will be elaborated in the framework of the project into the existing sectoral curricula, corresponding the EQF level 4, and, on the other hand, to include them (where possible, due to

the differences in the various education systems and where required with specific adaptations) in the national occupation standards and regular VET programmes.

These goals therefore constitute first attempts to elaborate and implement comparable curricula in different countries, with the aim to foster trainees' and workers' mobility.

The main SKILLCO results foreseen by the project are:

- the development of an analysis which helps to find out the missing skills in connection with construction industry,
- the set-up of a web platform where the partners can follow the latest news,
- working out new units in the curricula for school students and workers in the construction industry,
- the development of a new application which can help the students and workers to develop themselves and to work successful in the area of missing skills,
- better cooperation between the companies and VET schools in the future, more useful trainings for former students in the construction industry.

The project is addressed to those who learn for and work on the construction field in the level of EQF 4 such as carpenters, bricklayers, tilers, painters and decorators, drywall specialists/installers, stonemasons, construction technician and construction foremen who can to improve their skills/qualification in same areas of the profession, such as green skills in building, using ICT, numeracy, health and safety, social skills.

What are qualifications required for 4 European Qualifications Framework level?

Knowledge	Skills	Competence	Examples
Factual and theoretical knowledge in broad contexts within a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to generate solutions to specific problems in a field of work or study	Exercise self-management within the guidelines of work or study contexts that are usually predictable, but are subject to change; supervise the routine work of others, taking some responsibility for the evaluation and improvement of work or study activities	(UK) A-level , RQF level 3, Scottish Higher ; Abitur , Matura , vocational school , Voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs , szakközépiskola , Berufsfachschule. Spričevalo o zaključnem izpitu, Srednja poklicna izobrazba, Baccalauréats professionnels

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News from the First Project Meeting

On 14 and 15 December 2016, the partners of the project 'SKILLCO' met in Ljubljana (Slovenia) at the premises of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (CCIS) Chamber of Construction and Building Materials Industry of Slovenia (CCBMIS). The aim of the meeting was to present project partners more in detail, to discuss the project work plan and planned results and to compare current VET system for the construction professions.



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App Development

During the project, a new specific mobile app (based on project web site) will be developed and used as a supporting training tool for A and B Module trainees.



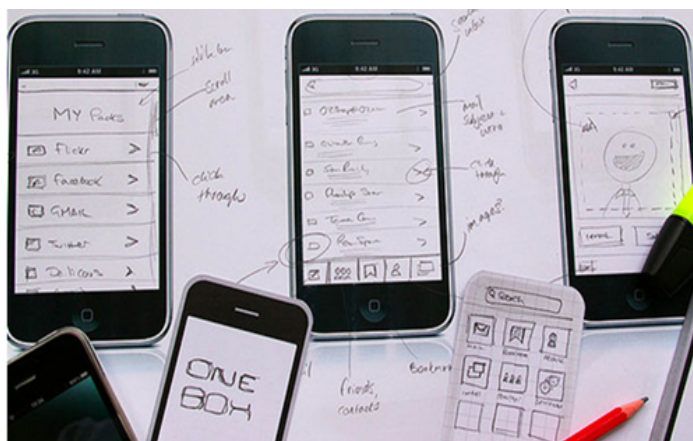
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Next Project Partner Meeting

KSZC VET centre
HUNGARY, KECSKEMÉT „HÍRŐS VÁROS”

DATE: 29.06.2017-30.06.2017

Project consortia will meet again at KSZC VET centre in Kecskemét, Hungary (public VET school). On the second meeting the achieved project results will be discussed and the next steps of development will be agreed on. Following project outputs will be presented: Status report on findings of skills gaps with research in existing data sources for construction EQF level 4 and preliminary Report on findings from national (6) focus groups meetings in 3 countries.



By all project partners preparational work and test activities will be done as well as a collection of input and content for the mobile app. A specific tailor made SKILLCO app will be developed as an universal app for both Android and iOS devices and will be available for free download from App Store and Google play.



SKILLCO



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SKILLCO in the Future

Forming of SSA "Alliance for advancement of VET in construction": By the end of the project SKILLCO (in 2019) we will create the non-formal form of future sectoral collaboration on EU level with developing SSA "Alliance founding document" in the construction (SSAC document).

ARE YOU INTERESTED TO JOIN US and FURTHER ADDRESS THE QUALIFICATIONS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR? **CONTACT US AND AS A SUPPORT SIGN THE DOCUMENT!**

Partner contacts:

	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia	Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije	www.gzs.si
	School Centre Celje	Šolski center Celje	www.scc.si
	The Slovenian Institute for Vocational Education and Training	Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje	www.cpi.si
	West German Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades' Council	Westdeutscher Handwerkskammertag	www.whkt.de
	The Training Institute of the Federation of Construction Industry NRW	Berufsförderungswerk der Bauindustrie NRW gGmbH	www.abz-kerpen.de
	The National Federation of Hungarian Building Contractors	Építési Vállalkozók Országos Szakszövetsége	www.evosz.hu
	Kecskemét Centre of Vocational Training	Kecskeméti Szakképzési Centrum	www.kecskemetisz.hu
	European Construction Industry Federation	Fédération de l'Industrie Européenne de la Construction	www.fiec.eu

For further information contact the coordinator:
Valentina Kuzma (CCIS)
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The project is co-funded by the European Commission and is part of the Erasmus+ programme.

To get notified on new informations regarding SKILLCO project sign up for our newsletter at www.skillco.eu/en/content/news



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The newsletter was edited by KSZC

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