



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus +: Platforms, Skills and Innovation

Brussels, October 2020

Erasmus+ Programme

KA3 – Support for Policy Reform

Synthesis note on the

Joint Qualifications in Vocational Education and Training

Call for proposals EACEA 27/2017

Interim Reports

Implementation period: 2018-2021

1. INTRODUCTION

This note summarises the main findings of the assessment of the interim reports for the Erasmus+ Programme, KA3 action: Joint Qualifications in Vocational Education and Training (VET). It includes key data on the performance of the actions, information on project objectives and reported achievements, as well as an overview of the initiatives implemented.

Quality VET, with a strong work-based component, that also embeds a trans-national mobility experience as part of the qualification, is acknowledged to contribute to reducing Europe's high level of youth unemployment, boosting growth by providing relevant skills for the labour market, promoting a culture of lifelong learning, countering social exclusion and promoting active citizenship.

Within this framework, the specific objective of this Call was, for the first time, to support the preparation or setting up of joint VET qualifications including at higher level or the improvement of such existing qualifications.

The Call for proposals was published on 14/10/2017.

The number of applications submitted exceeded expectations. The dissemination strategy implemented by DG EMPL and EACEA to enhance the visibility of the Call proved to be fruitful.

On 31/01/2018, 57 applications were submitted to the Agency. The award decision was signed on 25/06/2018. Grant agreements were issued to 19 projects (including 4 projects put on a reserve list, given the success of the Call) for a total budget of 7.211.998 €.

The Evaluation Committee underlined that the projects proposed for funding have the potential to increase the employability of young people and to contribute to the development of a highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce from which companies should also benefit. They also can support joint developments in VET in Europe and strengthen overall its quality, relevance and attractiveness.

The transnational qualifications appropriately include strong work-based learning and a mobility component, address learning outcomes, quality assurance and proper recognition while making use of relevant European tools and instruments.

Against the background of high youth unemployment, skills mismatch and shortages as well as the need for higher level skills at sectorial level, the joint VET qualifications that are currently implemented are expected to address these challenges and ensure that VET responds better to labour market needs.

The projects selected cover a period of 2 years, starting between 1 September 2018 and 1 November 2018. Considering the current situation linked to COVID-19, 13 extensions of the contractual period were approved by the Agency via amendments of the grant agreements, allowing the projects to exceptionally prolong their duration by a maximum of 12 months.

2. EVALUATION OF THE INTERIM REPORTS

The interim reports, covering the first contractual period of 12 months, were sent to the Agency by January 2020. Only one project asked for an extension of the deadline and submitted the interim report in March 2020. The evaluation of the reports was conducted by the Agency. The majority of assessments was performed in February-March and in only few cases due to missing documents, incomplete information or a late submission the evaluation process was finalised in April 2020.

The scoring of the reports was based on four award criteria to be assessed in order to judge the quality of the project implementation: Relevance (30 points), quality of design and implementation (25 points), consortium and cooperation arrangement (25 points) and impact and dissemination (20 points).

The average score obtained by the 19 assessed reports is 73, which shows that the projects are well on track and are likely to deliver successful results. The highest score is 81/100 and the lowest 57/100.

The evaluation reports were all sent, together with the notification of payment of the second instalment of the grant to the beneficiaries within 60 days after acceptance of the interim report. This second pre-financing represented 40% of the grant, following the first pre-financing of 40% paid at signature of the grant agreement.

The assessment results were discussed with the beneficiaries during phone calls or online meetings.

3. ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The 19 selected projects addressed very well the aims of the action in terms of the implemented activities and they were geared towards the objectives of EU VET policy.

The projects started out with a thorough needs analysis encompassing desk research, interviews or surveys and/or focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders to identify skills gaps and training needs.

In some cases the needs analysis was based on previous research and one project, in addition to consulting industry representatives, used the European Hospitality and Tourism Skills Passport as a basis for developing the qualification profile in cultural tourism.

After a comprehensive analysis of the current and potential future needs in the addressed industries, and in some cases also an analysis of the national qualification frameworks of the participating partners, the projects set out to define a new or improve a current qualification.

After the definition of the qualification profile, some projects started to develop curricula and the learning material and several projects already defined assessment standards.

At interim stage, 32% of the projects have focused on a more thorough needs analysis and finalised the research phases. 42% of the projects have finalised the research phase and defined the qualification profile and 26% have in addition to that already developed a new or updated curriculum and in most cases also the training material.

The EQF levels that most projects address are 4 and 5, which – as indicated in the needs analyses – was the most suitable level for 9 and 10 projects respectively. Out of these, 3 projects will use different EQF levels (3-4, 3-5 and 4-5) for each national curriculum. 2 projects will exclusively develop teaching material for EQF 6, involving VET at tertiary level.

The use of principles and approaches of EQF, ESCO and EUROPASS and the learning outcome approach while developing the joint qualification profile contributes to supporting the quality and relevance of VET and was taken into consideration by all projects to varying degrees.

Almost all projects (17) made reference to the learning outcome approach in the interim report, more than half (11) have considered or will consider ECVET, 9 referred to EQAVET, 7 to ESCO and 3 to EUROPASS. In the second half of the project implementation it should be ensured that European transparency tools are used consistently and effectively.

The assessment of the progress reports highlights that all projects have been closely following the project design set out in the application. A limited number of projects were officially amended, some changed their legal representatives, replaced one partner, or requested a reallocation of tasks for a partner.

The majority of projects have developed excellent cooperation and communication mechanisms based on face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings, online platforms and an appropriate distribution of tasks and hierarchical structures.

Furthermore, many projects have been using internal and external evaluation to assess the quality of their deliverables.

In almost all projects the dissemination strategy and the already implemented dissemination activities are of good quality and are anchored in a diverse range of actions, including videos, press conferences, newsletters, promotional material and social media to ensure that the relevant target groups are aware of the projects and their outcomes.

3.1. Objectives and interim achievements of the projects

This section presents a synthesis of the individual aim and state of play of each of the 19 on-going projects:

WineVet

European cooperation among VET providers, agricultural enterprises, sectoral/professional organisations and relevant qualification authorities to increase employability of youths and highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce by developing the joint VET qualification “Winemaker Specialist”

ARIS FORMAZIONE E RICERCA SOCIETA COOPERATIVA (IT)

597814



Bringing together 8 partners from Italy and North Macedonia, the main objective of this project is to set up a higher-level joint Umbrian-Macedonian VET qualification for “Winemaker Specialist”.

The partners aim to:

- ✓ Analyse the professional and teaching fields in wine production in the involved countries, and the transferable practices for transparency in VET;
- ✓ Design a qualification profile, outlining expected learning outcomes (EQF 5);
- ✓ set up, by MoU ECVET, the cooperation structure to ensure transparency, comparability, quality and mutual recognition;
- ✓ Design a joint curriculum, outlining the training strategy and including learning outcomes with strong work based learning component, and supporting mobility and
- ✓ Define joint guidelines for the assessment of learning outcomes.

Valuable results have been achieved at this stage, such as 3 multiplier events, a report on the professional and teaching fields in wine production, the qualification profile and a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the transnational post-secondary VET qualification profile.

Website: <https://winevet.eu/>

ECOFAR

Development of managerial and entrepreneurial skills of young eco-farmers via joint VET curricula, enhanced qualification profile, assessment standard and sustainable cooperation synergies

**NACIONALNA PROFESIONALNA GIMNAZIYA PO VETERINARNA MEDICINA
"IVAN PAVLOV" - STARA ZAGORA (BG)**

597256



The project partnership, bringing together 8 partners from Bulgaria, Greece, Slovenia and Turkey, is working towards the development of managerial and entrepreneurial skills for young eco-farmers through the development of joint VET curricula, enhanced qualification profiles, assessment standards and sustainable cooperation synergies.

The activities will support work-based learning, addressing ECVET learning outcomes and proper recognition and validation of the learning achievements. As such, the partners aim to cover skills mismatches and shortages of the eco-farmers as well as cooperate to respond to the need for higher level skills at sectoral level of eco-farming managers and entrepreneurs.

The project has already developed a joint VET curriculum and a training modular programme for the management of eco-farm enterprises in English (EQF 4-5), which consists of 7 ECVET aligned modules.

Website: www.ecofarm-manager.eu

WellTo

Present Stakeholders for Future Wellness Tourism Skills' Development

ZEMEDELKA PROFESIONALNA GIMNAZIA "KLIMENT TIMIRYAZEV" (BG)

597861



Wellness-tourism has the potential to contribute towards employment and economic growth, as well as to development in rural, peripheral or less-developed areas. The main challenge in the further development of the wellness tourism is, however, the availability of qualified staff.

The main objectives of this project, including 14 partners operating in Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, Slovakia and Slovenia are therefore to:

- ✓ Design a joint qualification for the profile 'Administrator of Wellness Centre';
- ✓ Provide common quality standards for the implementation of qualifications;
- ✓ Ensure effective cooperation between VET schools and wellness tourism companies in the planning, organisation, provision, recognition and certification of WBL and
- ✓ Establish a European Wellness Tourism Skills Network.

The main outcomes achieved during the first project implementation year are the development of the national occupational profile and the design of national curricula (EQF 3-5) available in the four languages of the partner countries.

Website: www.wellto.eu

ImproVET

Improving Skills in Vocational Education and Training

CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY CCE (HR)

597884



Bringing together 7 partners from Croatia and Slovenia, this project addresses the development of high quality, labour-market relevant skills by tackling mismatches between the industry's needs and education in the engineering sector.

The *ImproVET* project activities are geared towards improving a set of sector-specific and transversal skills by means of designing and developing joint qualification for mechanical engineering technician at upper secondary level of education in Croatia and Slovenia.

The project partners will develop a new qualification profile (EQF 4), curricula for mechanical engineering technician and assessment standards.

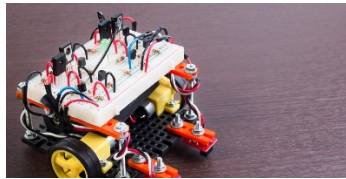
So far, the project team has developed a research methodology and guidelines for the research of employers and market needs. Based on these reports the project team conducted interviews on the skills needs of employers and drafted a report on the findings.

Website: <http://www.improvet.eu/>

RoboVET

Definition and Implementation of a VET programme in Robotics Technician CEPROF - CENTROS ESCOLARES DE ENSINO PROFISSIONAL LDA (PT)

597847



The project focuses on the increase of the employability of young people and on the development of a highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce by creating an EQF level 4 qualification for Robotics Technicians, which will bridge the gap between training and the labour market. This project brings together 10 partners and they are preparing the robotics curriculum for 3 countries (Spain, Portugal and Cyprus).

The main results are:

- ✓ The diagnosis of the training needs for a level 4 VET training for robotics technicians;
- ✓ The fine-tuning of tested concepts and contents transferable among partner countries and
- ✓ The establishment of an open dialogue between enterprises and schools.

The project is currently working on the elaboration of the qualifications profile, the joint curriculum and the training units. The consortium has already started working on the exploitation and sustainability of the outcomes.

Website: <https://robovetproject.com/>

MET-VET

Higher VET Course in the Metal Sector

SIVITANIDIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL OF TRADES AND VOCATIONS (EL)

597806



METVET
JOINT HIGHER VET COURSE IN THE METAL SECTOR

Bringing together 7 partners from 4 countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece and Italy), the general objective of this project is to tackle the existing skills gaps within the training for Aluminium & Metal Construction technicians. It aims to create a demand driven training in order to meet the growing demand for new skills, especially green skills. The project thus aims at strengthening the exchange of knowledge and practice between education and training institutions and the labour market.

These objectives will be achieved by compiling the partners' previously carried out research into skills gaps, and the assessment of the findings of a new needs analysis and of in-depth interviews and focus groups with stakeholders.

In addition to the skills gaps analysis, the project partners have so far defined the professional qualification profile and are now working on developing the core curriculum (EQF 5) and the corresponding VET program.

Website: www.metvet.eu

CosTUmE

Clothing Technician Profile Update via Education

CENTRO TECNOLÓGICO DAS INDÚSTRIAS TEXTIL E DO VESTUÁRIO DE PORTUGAL (PT)

597854



In Portugal, Spain and Romania the VET systems offer several profiles/qualifications in the area of clothing which are insufficient to accomplish today's companies needs and challenges, such as quick response capacity, eco-friendly solutions, digital competences, and work-based learning methodologies for workers.

The 8 partners of the *Costume* project aim to provide support for policy reform in the textile and clothing sectors through the following objectives: decrease skills mismatches, increase the interest of young people in enrolling in technical qualifications, increase workers' qualifications, increase supportive human resources strategies, foster workforce mobilization within the EU and update the clothing technician profile.

90 VET providers, 6 sectorial social partners and 8 national regulatory VET authorities are the direct target public, which has been involved in the project so far, by questionnaires, focus groups and networking sessions.

In its first year the project delivered a roadmap on qualification needs and good practices for WBL in the Textiles & Clothing sector and they defined the clothing technician profile and the qualification (EQF 4).

During the next year of the project, the ECVET Matrix and the tutorial guide for mobility and the training material for the profile of Clothing Technician will be developed.

Website: www.clothingtechnician.eu/

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/L4knE1nEgdc>



SEED

Smart Entrepreneurial Education and training in Digital farming

UMBRAFLOR AZIENDA VIVAISTICA REGIONALE (IT)

597837



The *SEED* project, bringing together 7 partners from Belgium, Italy, Slovakia and Spain, aims to develop skills in agriculture by introducing digital transformation. The project is supporting the development of a joint VET qualification (EQF 5) in digital farming. Skills will be mapped against the EntreCOMP and DigCOMP frameworks and work-based learning will be the main feature of the project.

During the first year of the project implementation the project partners have compared research on 287 already existing curricula and qualification profiles (EQF 4-6), organised focus groups to identify the LOs that would best meet labour market needs and the partners have defined an updated qualification.

During the second half of the project, these units of LOs will be further described according to the specific knowledge and roles, thus ensuring that the proposed skills, competences and attitudes will be consistent with the needs of an evolving labour market.

Website: www.digitalseed.eu/

DataPRO

Upgrading the EU Data Protection Sector with new Skills

UNION OF HELLENIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (EL)

597857



The *DataPRO* project establishes a solid regional partnership responding to the challenges of the new European data protection regime based on the adoption of a General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 on 27 April 2016. Since there is no common European framework on skills and competences in the data protection sector, the business sector is facing a skills mismatch across Europe. For this reason, the project, uniting 10 partners from Belgium, Cyprus, Germany and Greece, aims to set up a new joint data protection VET curriculum based on a thorough needs analysis and to produce a standardized VET certification for DPOs.

So far, the project has drafted a report on the state-of-the-art in training and learning methodologies for data protection and DPOs in the participating countries and made key recommendations for education and VET providers, policy makers and other stakeholders involved in training and qualification for the sector. In the second half of the project implementation, the project will develop the joint curricula (EQF 5) and establish sustainable cooperation structures and the recognition of qualifications for the profile of Data Protection Officer as well as open learning resources.

Website: <https://datapro-project.eu/site/>

CulTVET
Joint Qualification in the field of Cultural Tourism
CAMARA OFICIAL DE COMERCIO INDUSTRIA Y NAVEGACION DE SEVILLA
(ES)
597855



To diversify the tourism offer of the participating countries Italy, Cyprus, Greece, and Spain, this project focuses on improving cultural tourism.

The *CulTVET* project responds to the need to develop a VET offer in order to prepare highly qualified professionals for the cultural tourism sector. The 10 partners thus aim to develop a joint qualification profile (EQF 5) with a strong work-based learning component.

The objective of the project is to increase the relevance of the training and train 80 students from 4 different countries to enhance their qualification in the field of cultural tourism, along with including 120 companies where these students will spend their apprenticeship period.

The project has finished the first year of implementation, in which the joint curriculum has been developed and the courses have been launched in 2 of the 4 countries, Spain and Cyprus.

Website: <https://www.cultvet.eu/>

DT
Digital Tourism
INSIGNARE - ASSOCIACAO DE ENSINO E FORMACAO (PT)
597875



The digital development in the tourism industry has become essential to gain competitive advantages and to shape their offer based on the needs of the target audience.

Digital Tourism will work on developing a new job profile for the 'Digital Tourism Technician' in addition to providing:

- ✓ A 3 years course at 3 to 4 EQF level;
- ✓ Tourism and IT skills curricula;
- ✓ Long term WBL in international companies;
- ✓ An ECVET credit system to simplify transparency.

In the first year, the 8 partners from 5 countries (Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) developed a needs analysis report in digital tourism, a job profile of a Digital Tourism Technician and the corresponding training material.

In the second half of the eligibility period the project will assess the quality of the qualification including standardisation, effectiveness and measurability to the working environment.

Website: <https://digitaltourism.wixsite.com/digitaltourism>

CULINART

Designing a Joint VET Qualification in Culinary Arts and Pilot Pathways for Continuing Training

MEZHDUNARODEN KOLEZH (BG)

597848



CULINART aims to enhance the quality and relevance of VET in the culinary arts (CA) based on labour market needs in view of increasing youth employability, trans-national mobility and career progression.

This is achieved via the design of a joint VET qualification in CA (EQF 5) and pathways to further studies, the establishment of a strategic international alliance for piloting and delivery of the qualification and by fostering the national accreditation of qualification.

The project activities encompass a needs assessment, design of a joint qualification, and the establishment of a trans-national cooperation structure for the delivery of the new qualification, piloting, accreditation, communication and multiplication of the project deliverables.

In the first half of the project, the 9 full partners and 5 associated partners from 6 countries (Bulgaria, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey) have developed a needs analysis in all six partner countries, a qualification profile for the occupation of ‘Chef’ and they are actively disseminating the interim results.

Website: <http://culinart-europe.eu/index.php/en/>

NeWPOST

Upgrading the EU Postal Sector with new Skills

AKMI ANONIMI EKPAIDEFTIKI ETAIRIA (EL)

597876



The individualisation of services along with the increase of e-commerce have resulted in a rise of the transfer of parcel volumes.

This is why this project aims to make cross-border parcel delivery more efficient. Its wider aims are to increase the employability of young people and to develop a highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce in the postal sector, bridging geographical and institutional barriers.

More specifically, the 11 partners from 4 countries (Belgian, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania) aim to develop a new joint occupational profile based on common trends in the postal sector, establish a new sustainable cooperation structure and develop a common recognition scheme.

So far, the *NeWPOST* project has finalised a thorough needs analysis in three partner countries (Bulgaria, Greece and Romania).

In the next project phase it will deliver:

- ✓ New joint curricula (Postman and Front Office Cashier, EQF 4) and
- ✓ One new WBL tested scheme.

Within the project, 100 postal service providers will be trained with the new curricula and the results will be widely disseminated.

Website: www.posteurop.org/NEWPOST

CQJB

Certification and Qualification for Europe's Job Brokers

DIMITRA EKPAIDITIKI SIMVILITIKI AE (EL)

597841



The *CQJB* Project is the continuation of a KA2 Job Broker project, during which it was made clear that there is a need for a common European profile for Job Brokers.

Completing the research on the previous KA2 project, a KA3 was prepared in order to introduce a new joint qualification accompanied by a training course and an ISO 17024 certification scheme, including the possibility for universities to award ECTS.

The partnership of 9 partners from 8 countries (Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Island, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) aim to:

- ✓ Design, register, pilot and sustain a new European professional qualification for Job Brokers (EQF 6);
- ✓ Accredite a new EU qualification and assessment process and
- ✓ Establish a transnational licensing entity and trademark, with nationally licensed operators, to offer and assure the quality of the qualification.

So far the project has finalised the activities linked to the development phase. In order to create a new joint qualification, the partnership created a qualification profile (EQF 6), curriculum and training needs analysis that will feed into the second phase of the project where activities linked to training, accreditation and the setting up a new cooperation structure will take place.

Website: www.job-brokers.eu/en

S-HVET

Smart Development of HVET for Highly Skilled and Mobile Workforce

OBRTNICKO UCILISTE - USTANOVA ZA OBRAZOVANJE ODRASLIH (HR)

597862



Reducing energy consumption of buildings can be considered the basis for innovative solutions for housing construction and rehabilitation of housing stock in the future. Lowering energy consumption using intelligent building automation is particularly effective. The EQF 5 joint qualification of experts in building automation will be a new educational offer combining advanced technical skills in building automation combined with managerial skills, which will boost the employability of workers.

The consortium of 7 partners and 3 associated partners from Croatia, Italy and Slovenia are collaborating to deliver a new joint HVET qualification of 'expert in building automation' which is in line with employers' skills needs, based on WBL and integrating mobility of learners and workers.

At thematic level, partners have conducted an extensive quantitative analysis of the skills needs of a sample of 107 employers and qualitative desk research. Focus groups and workshops with employers were organised and the first draft of the qualification completed.

Website: <https://www.smart-hvet.eu>

CORE

Cooking for the Future

ESPOON SEUDUN KOULUTUSKUNTAYHTYMA OMNIA (FI)

597859



The purpose of the *Cooking for the Future* project is to strengthen the cooperation between VET schools and businesses in the restaurant and catering sector and to harmonize the education of professional cooks. The 5 full partners and 3 associated partners from 4 countries (Estonia, Finland, Ireland and Spain) aim to improve the existing qualifications and promote international dialogue, and the exchange of best practices in the education of cooks.

In order to achieve these objectives, the project partners will develop new international training modules (EQF 4) for the catering business. The quality of the vocational qualification content will be improved and the international and work-based learning aspects of the modules strengthened. On balance then, there will be coherent units for the qualification of cooks containing a strong international aspect and a variety of open resource digital learning materials.

So far, the project consortium has completed the analysis of the skills needs for professional cooks and compiled best practices and current learning material, which will be analysed at a later stage.

Website: <https://cookingforthefuture.net>

ICARO

Innovative qualifications for technological and organizational innovation in building sector

FORMEDIL ENTE NAZIONALE PER LA FORMAZIONE E L'ADDESTRAMENTO PROFESSIONALE NELL'EDILIZIA (IT)

597840



Technological innovation in the construction sector, and new developments that focus on sustainability, digitisation, energy efficiency and health and safety, require the re-definition of site technicians. The objective is to update the qualification of site technician (EQF 5 level) within the partner countries in line with the professional needs of the construction sector.

Based on a thorough needs analysis and collection of best practices, the project partners aim to update and implement the existing qualifications of worksite-head technician and ensure the quality of the qualification.

The partnership of 8 partners from 4 countries (Belgium, Italy, Lithuania and Spain) have completed a report on regulations on energy efficiency, sustainability, safety and digitalisation, a report on training and qualifications systems in the involved countries, and an assessment of a questionnaire of skills gaps.

Website: www.icaroproject.eu/en

DiVET

Joint Qualification Exports Specialists via Internet and Social Media

ACTION SYNERGY SA (EL)

597878



The general objective of this project involving 6 partners from Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey is to improve the VET offer in the field of exports through the use of internet and social media. The project consortium aims to increase the number of specialists in the field, increase the capacity of the companies to engage in online export activities and increase the employability of VET students interested in this field.

So far the project has organised focus groups with stakeholders and company representatives in order to get their feedback on the development of the qualification profile.

After developing the qualification profile (EQF 4), a joint curriculum was drafted. The partners have developed lesson plans, training material and assessment questions on each of the 15 modules of the curriculum, which has a duration of 960 hours, 480 of which are work-based.

Furthermore, quality assurance mechanisms were developed that will ensure the joint nature of the qualification as well as its recognition by the national authorities. In the second half of the project, the material and training platform will be tested and improved.

EXPOVET

Joint VET Course for Export Experts

ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS (EL)

597839



The *EXPOVET* project aspires to elaborate a training qualification in the field of international commerce and strengthen the interaction between education and the labour market.

More specifically, the project aims at elaborating a cross-national and inter-regional training at higher qualification level (EQF 6) in the field of international commerce for university graduates and unemployed individuals. The second objective is to set up a sustainable cooperation structure/network between the participating universities/VET providers (at tertiary level) and business associations/enterprises in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.

So far, the project consortium, bringing together 7 partners from Bulgaria, Germany, Greece and Romania, identified the specific skills gaps and the relevant training needs via the use of an e-survey tool. Based on the collection of questionnaires and following locally organised focus groups with relevant stakeholders, the project developed a joint qualification profile in the field of international commerce (export expert).

In the second half of the project, the project will deliver a joint curriculum in the field of international commerce, which will be offered by three universities or further training institutes (VET providers at tertiary level), and the project partners will develop assessment standards, mutual quality assurance & recognition procedures.

Website: <http://www.expovet.eu/>

3.2. CHALLENGES

At progress report stage numerous projects face minor delays that do not represent a risk to the successful project implementation during the eligibility period. For a small number of projects significant delays of several months were noted. Projects partners were encouraged to take mitigating measure to ensure the timely submission of all deliverables.

A common weakness noted in the projects at this stage is that the sustainability of project results has not been given enough attention at this point yet and that frequently no concrete strategy is in place. It is, however, highly recommended to define clear measures as early as possible to ensure sustainable results, especially in this Call as the long term success of the activities also depends on the recognition of the developed qualification profiles.

Projects are further encouraged to clearly describe the impact of the project activities and to use appropriate indicators to measure it.

Many projects demonstrated good stakeholder involvement but some were encouraged to take measures to ensure that sufficient attention was paid to the perspective and input of relevant external stakeholders.

The supportive approach applied by EACEA towards beneficiaries was enforced during the COVID-19 lockdown. The Agency is currently providing a long-lasting guidance to its target publics and maintains a permanent dialogue with the beneficiaries of EU grants.

3.3. IMPACT

The impact of the projects at interim stage is mainly evident in three areas: Firstly, with regard to the building and strengthening of transnational networks, secondly, in view of capacity building of involved institutions and thirdly, with regard to awareness raising demonstrating how projects can raise the attractiveness of VET and foster youth employability.

In the research phase, especially in the focus groups, workshops and interviews that many projects organised, project partners established face-to face contact with teachers, business representatives and students as well as other relevant stakeholders in the field and expanded their network at trans-national level.

Especially relevant to achieving sustainable results was the contact many project consortia established with sectorial organisations, policy makers, regional and national education authorities and associations involved in qualification, assessment and quality assurance.

As projects finalised the research phase, where they identified the skills needs in a specific economical area, they shared this information beyond the partnership and contributed thus to the capacity building of relevant stakeholders providing them with the information on how to provide innovative and updated training.

The projects also has had an impact as a consequence of general awareness raising of the projects' objectives and initial results. A plethora of dissemination strategies has been used to reach and maintain contact with the target audience.

Project partners have developed a common visual identity, websites, social media profiles and they have published newsletters and press reviews and promoted their projects at numerous events.

A tangible impact on target groups can be expected in the second half of the project implementation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Call EACEA 27/2017 - Joint Qualifications in Vocational Education and Training in VET aims to increase the employability of young people and contribute to the development of a highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce by supporting transnational projects that set out to create new or update existing qualification profiles.

With an average score of 72 points, the evaluation of the work plans' implementation at mid-term demonstrates that the projects are in general well on track and have paved the way for a successful implementation in the second project year. Approximately one third of the 19 selected projects have finalised their needs assessments, 42% have completed the definition of the qualification profiles based on a thorough needs analysis and about one quarter of the selected projects already developed curricula and in all but one of these cases also the corresponding learning material. A few projects have already developed assessment standards and quality assurance mechanisms.

The assessment of the interim reports demonstrate that the partners are well involved in the projects and effective collaboration tools are in place, and that there is a well-balanced share of responsibilities. Dissemination activities have been implemented as planned, through a wide range of diverse channels and media, which were assessed as successful.

The curricula and training material, already developed by some projects, show innovative aspects in the sense that they incorporate new requirements, demands and trends, such as eco-friendly procedures and digital skills.

Even if challenges varied between projects, there are some commonalities. In the interim evaluation some projects were recommended to tackle the delays and implement mitigating measures. In addition, many have not yet sufficiently considered strategies for sustainability and the impact was often not described concretely enough and using appropriate indicators. While dissemination activities were assessed in general as very good, it was noted that the activities on social media platforms and interaction with users were too infrequent.

The impact of the projects is largely defined as generated by awareness raising and the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the needs analysis and the dissemination of the results of the research phase.

The total EU grant awarded (7.211.998 €) has been absorbed at 45% so far (3.238.878,41 €).

Annex: Overview of the ongoing projects

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N°	Number	Beneficiary organisation	Country	Project title	Acronym	Max. grant awarded	Project website	Erasmus+ Dissemination Platform
1	597814	ARIS FORMAZIONE E RICERCA SOCIETA COOPERATIVA	IT	European cooperation among VET providers, agricultural enterprises, sectoral/professional organisations and relevant qualification authorities to increase employability of youths and highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce by developing the joint VET qualification “Winemaker Specialist”	WineVet	427.292 €	https://winevet.eu/	Project link
2	597256	NACIONALNA PROFESIONALNA GIMNAZIYA PO VETERINARNA MEDICINA "IVAN PAVLOV" - STARA ZAGORA	BG	Development of managerial and entrepreneurial skills of young eco-farmers via joint VET curricula, enhanced qualification profile, assessment standard and sustainable cooperation synergies	ECOFAR	248.639 €	www.ecofarm-manager.eu	Project link
3	597861	ZEMEDELKA PROFESIONALNA GIMNAZIA "KLIMENT TIMIRYAZEVA"	BG	Present Stakeholders for Future Wellness Tourism Skills' Development	WellTo	499.991 €	www.wellto.eu	Project link
4	597884	CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY CCE	HR	Improving Skills in Vocational Education and Training	ImproVET	358.537 €	http://www.improvet.eu/	Project link
5	597847	CEPROF - CENTROS ESCOLARES DE ENSINO PROFISSIONAL LDA	PT	Definition and Implementation of a VET programme in Robotics Technician	RoboVET	386.928 €	http://robotvetproject.com	Project link
6	597806	SIVITANIDIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL OF TRADES AND VOCATIONS	EL	Joint Higher VET Course in the Metal Sector	MET-VET	327.376 €	www.metvet.eu	Project link

N°	Number	Beneficiary organisation	Country	Project title	Acronym	Max. grant awarded	Project website	Erasmus+ Dissemination Platform
7	597854	CENTRO TECNOLÓGICO DAS INDUSTRIAS TEXTIL E DO VESTUÁRIO DE PORTUGAL	PT	Clothing Technician Profile Update via Education	CosTUmE	276.540 €	www.clothingtechnician.eu/	Project link
8	597837	UMBRAFLORE AZIENDA VIVAISTICA REGIONALE	IT	Smart Entrepreneurial Education and training in Digital farming	SEED	499.999 €	www.digitalseed.eu/	Project link
9	597857	UNION OF HELLENIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE	EL	Upgrading the EU Data Protection Sector with new Skills	DataPRO	378.605 €	https://datapropject.eu/site/	Project link
10	597855	CAMARA OFICIAL DE COMERCIO INDUSTRIA Y NAVEGACION DE SEVILLA	ES	Joint Qualification in the field of Cultural Tourism	CulTVET	482.816 €	https://www.cultvet.eu/	Project link
11	597875	INSIGNARE - ASSOCIACAO DE ENSINO E FORMACAO	PT	Digital Tourism	DT	316.381 €	https://digitaltourism.wixsite.com/digitaltourism	Project link
12	597848	MEZHDUNARODEN KOLEZH	BG	Designing a Joint VET Qualification in Culinary Arts and Pilot Pathways for Continuing Training	CULINART	405.088 €	http://culinart-europe.eu/index.php/en/	Project link
13	597876	AKMI ANONIMI EKPAIDFTIKI ETAIRIA	EL	Upgrading the EU Postal Sector with new Skills	NeWPOST	348.920 €	www.posteurop.org/NEWPOST	Project link
14	597841	DIMITRA EKPAIDITIKI SIMVILITIKI AE	EL	Certification and Qualification for Europe's Job Brokers	CQJB	494.452 €	www.job-brokers.eu/en	Project link
15	597862	OBRTNICKO UCILISTE - USTANOVA ZA OBRAZOVANJE ODRASLIH	HR	Smart Development of HVET for Highly Skilled and Mobile Workforce	S-HVET	341.551 €	https://www.smart-hvet.eu	Project link

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16	597859	ESPOON SEUDUN KOULUTUSKUNTAY HTYMA OMNIA	FI	Cooking for the future	CORE	313.043 €	https://cookingfortheefuture.net	Project link
17	597840	FORMEDIL ENTE NAZIONALE PER LA FORMAZIONE E L'ADDESTRAMENTO PROFESSIONALE NELL EDILIZIA	IT	Innovative qualifications for technological and organizational innovation in building sector	ICARO	370.545 €	www.icaroproject.eu/en	Project link
18	597878	ACTION SYNERGY SA	EL	Joint Qualification Exports Specialists via Internet and Social Media	DiVET	381.895 €	www.action.gr/home/projects/entrepreneurship-business/divet	Project link
19	597839	ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS	EL	Joint VET Course for Export Experts	EXPOVET	353.400 €	http://www.expovet.eu/	Project link
Total						7.211.998 €		