
Strategic partnerships in vocational education and training

Project title: **Qualification and professionalization of accompaniment of the Asylum seekers, immigrants and war refugees**

Acronym: QualiProAIR Escort

Contractor: VHS-Rendsburger Ring e. V.

Partner Facilities: R.U. S.Z - Association for the Promotion of the Social Economy, AT
Bulgarian consultancy organisation, BG
nordprojekte Kaufmann & Partner, DE
EkoKaarina Oy, FI
Solski center Nova Garica, SI

Project number: 2016-1-DE02-KA202-003463

Duration: 24 months

Application year: 2016

Synopsis:

The project "QualiProAIR Escort" aims at the development and testing of a new qualification "Escorting asylum seekers, immigrants and war refugees". This is being carried out jointly by 6 partners from 5 European countries and addresses the rapidly growing immigration sector which has recently established itself and which will continue to occupy Europe in the coming years. Against the background of the need for agreement at European level on a solidarity-based approach to the distribution and treatment of immigrants and the need for uniform and comparable treatment of people arriving in Europe, projects, initiatives and social institutions are being set up all over Europe, especially on the "Balkan route" (Greece-Bulgaria-Macedonia-Croatia-Slovenia-Austria-Germany-Sweden-Finland), to deal with immigrants and people passing through, to help them integrate or even to give them a perspective on the labour market. These projects and initiatives are mostly run by social institutions, social economy enterprises and/or associations. The people who carry out the necessary activities do so on the basis of social professions and vocational training or on a voluntary basis without any specific training. Here, a considerable potential of employment is created in the social sector, which currently knows almost no specific training and qualification. The project "QualiProAIR Escort" starts here and creates a standardised orientation for this field of activity by developing a demand-oriented qualification profile on a European level and thus takes into account the objective of Agenda 2020 to create more and better jobs. The competence and skill requirements that are identified and defined with the profile lead to a qualification that enables the employees to find an entry into other areas of social services. With regard to the target group of young people with training obstacles, periods of interim training (e.g. in pre-vocational training schemes) can be used to acquire a subject-specific qualification which facilitates entry into initial training in social occupations same applies to the target group of

qualified long-term unemployed and employees threatened by unemployment, who can create a new perspective for themselves through a modular qualification in the field of immigration. The qualification gives volunteers and people working in the field of immigration a higher level of professionalism and a solid training basis for their work. The EU-wide comparability of the qualification through the application of quality standards increases on the one hand the transparency of the qualification and the acquired competences and skills and on the other hand it promotes labour market mobility by facilitating the mutual recognition of the qualification throughout Europe. By preparing the qualification modules for web-based teaching/learning, learning flexibility is demanded and the EU demand for modernisation in vocational education and training is met. In detail, the project "QualiProAIR Escort" will first conduct a needs analysis in which the necessary competences and skills for accompanying asylum seekers, immigrants and war refugees will be identified. The results of the analysis will be the basis for the development of quality standards for qualification modules, which will enable comparability and applicability throughout Europe. These two developments form the basis for 5 qualification modules, 3 focussing on labour market access for the immigrants (e.g. legal conditions, labour market access, recognition of qualifications, access to adaptation qualifications) and 2 modules focussing on social integration (e.g. intercultural training, dealing with women). These modules will be tested in the partner countries in pilot networks after they have been adapted to the national specifics. The testing with the target group described above is evaluated by means of a quality assurance tool. The objective is the sustainable implementation in the vocational training systems of the respective partner countries. In addition, a sector-specific assessment instrument for the identification of competences will be developed and tested in order to determine the suitability of the target group. In order to promote the political discussion on the necessity of the recognition of the qualification, a guideline for the implementation and financing of the new qualification on country and EU level will be developed.