

Aims of the project

ISO CONSTRUCT project aims at the challenging situation in the European construction sector, which, in general, is characterised by a very high percentage of low skilled and unskilled workers. For these workers the current discussions regarding the accreditation and recognition of competences and skills within the EQF and NQFs do not offer any appropriate solution since all approaches for recognition and accreditation of professional competences and qualifications are aiming at EQF level 3 and higher. For lower levels of skills no such mechanisms and systems are provided by most of the VET systems in Europe. This leads to the fact that it is not possible to recognise competences gained through non-formal and informal learning in daily working life for these professions. As a result, we see a hindered mobility of the workforce and lowest chances on the labour market in times of crisis.

The aim of the project is the adaptation of the approaches to the requirements and frame conditions of the target sector and the test implementation of an ISO 17024-based certification scheme for low skilled workers in the sector. Furthermore, the project wants to provide a competence certification based on an international standard for workers in this sector- This would allow for their workforce mobility and massively improved chances on the labour market, with an internationally recognised competence certificate in hand.

Duration of the project:
October 2013 – September 2015

Project Partners



Berufsförderungsinstitut
Steiermark



Systemcert
Zertifizierungsges.m.b.H.



Berufsförderungswerk
der Bauindustrie
NRW e.V



Fondo Formacion Euskadi



Länsirannikon Koulutus
Oy WinNova



Gospodarska zbornica
Slovenije - Zbornica
gradbeništva in industrije
gradbenega materiala



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ISO CONSTRUCT



Certified Construction Worker ISO 17024

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The construction sector is one of the largest business sectors of each national economy.

The construction sector is, however, characterised by a huge amount of workforce with only basic competences in construction skills that often, have been acquired in a non-formal or even informal way. Moreover, workforce mobility is often hindered by lack of transparent and comparable competence certification, especially when it comes to professions that are below EQF level 3. On EQF level 1 and 2 in construction (brick layer assistants, carpenter assistants etc.), no such European-wide accepted approaches for transparency and mutual recognition of professional competences are in place, and vocational training systems do also not give priority to these levels. This, finally, leads to the fact that thousands of workers in the construction sector in Europe do not have any certificate for the competences they own and are, therefore, clearly suffering from lacking possibilities for workforce mobility.

ISO CONSTRUCT aims at providing low skilled or unskilled workers (helpers) in the construction sector professions of

- bricklayer
- carpenter
- concrete worker

with an approach for the certification of their personal professional skills and competences (mainly acquired through on the job training and other non-formal or informal ways) on the basis of the worldwide recognised approach of the ISO 17024 norm.

- VET-providers
- Unskilled workers in the construction sector
- Construction businesses
- Certification bodies
- Policy decision makers
- Trade unions
- Representatives of economy

The main project aim of the ISO CONSTRUCT project is the sectoral transfer of the approach developed under the ISO QUAM project into the sector of construction to allow a transparent and internationally recognised accreditation of competences based on an internationally existing and widespread ISO norm (ISO 17024).

- Field research in EQF 1 and 2 professions in the construction sector in all partner countries
- Elaboration of a competence matrix for EQF 1 and 2 professions in the construction sector
- Elaboration of the testing and assessment procedures for the ISO 17024 certification process
- Test phase with participants in the partner countries to get feedback on the process and instruments in use, including issuing of ISO 17024 based competence certificates for participants
- Adaptation of certification scheme and instruments
- Implementation of a number of dissemination and exploitation activities throughout the project

