

DEVELOPING THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF THE FUTURE SPORTS INSTRUCTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQF



PROJECT NEWSLETTER – 6TH Issue



This issue

Developing the professional skills of the future sports instructors ...at the end...1
Photos from the final project meeting....3
Project sustainability.....4
European added value ...4

DEVELOPING THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF THE FUTURE SPORTS INSTRUCTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQF ... AT THE END

The activities of the Leonardo Partnership Developing the professional skills of the future sports instructors in accordance with the EQF has been carried out according to the initial plan. During the first project meeting (Granada, Spain), whose topic was “The schooling of the future sports instructors”, the partners shared information of their national educational system in order to establish the EQF level and character of the common training the sports instructors are to undergo. The conclusion of the meeting was that the best way to share good practices in this domain is to work on a curriculum with a common structure based on the requirements of the 4th EQF level, with focus on five particular sports: athletics, handball, football, fitness and outdoor sports. It was also decided that each of the five partners was to be in charge with one of these sports. During the first project meeting, the Spanish partner Serymar Training proposed a structure for the project website, with contributions from each partner. The website has become a database containing all the documents presented during the meeting, organization documents, photos, as well as the six project newsletter issues.

In order to work further on the curriculum, the partners also needed to establish a common conceptual platform for the professional status of the sports instructor, and therefore the topic of the second project meeting (Nicosia, Cyprus) was fully justified in the economy of the project development: “Sports instructor: the professional status”. Based on the educational system features shared in the first project meeting and on the national qualification frameworks of each of the countries involved, the partners organized a workshop where a list of professional attributes that the sports instructor holds was decided upon, while paying attention that these should not overlap with those of a coach/trainer.

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SPORTS INSTRUCTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQF

During the second project meeting, the structure of the curriculum was also established, with learning units that would be reflected in the learning outcomes the curriculum-based training programme would produce. The learning outcomes have been divided into knowledge, skills and competences, according to the EQF document provisions.

The third project (Rome, Italy) meeting corresponded with the third topic of the project: "Certification procedures for sports instructors" was an opportunity for the partners to analyze the possibility of implementing the curriculum developed within the partnership in the different national contexts as regards professional standards. During the same meeting, the partners presented the first draft of the curriculum they had been working on, designed and developed according to the procedure established previously.

The fourth project meeting (Athens, Greece) was based on another aspect of the project, that of developing a sports-related vocabulary database with specific terms that are related to the sports approached by the project. During the meeting, the terms were presented and defined, their importance for the database was discussed, as well as the form in which they would appear on the project website. Following the debates, the database took the form of an Excel document containing 162 terms, translated in each of the partner languages, with their definition provided in English, which has been also published on the project website, as well as in the project brochure.

The final project meeting (Iasi, Romania), whose topic was "Models of good practice in the training of the future sports instructors" was the opportunity for the partners to discuss final issues regarding the outlook, contents and structure of the project brochure and CD, to present the final form of the sports curriculum they worked on and to work on an evaluation sheet for the curriculums. The latter will be used as a tool for quality assessment that will be used by experts in each of the sports involved in order to establish whether the curriculums comply with the specific performance indicators.

The project has provided a fruitful international collaboration platform in the sports training area, in that five national qualification frameworks and educational systems have been brought together to create training curriculums for sports instructors in five different sports while working around the EQF provisions. Their aim has been to create an educational framework that would enable those who train to become sports instructors to meet the professional demands on the European labour market in a flexible manner. Following the project, the partners will use the final products either in their own training activity, or they will provide other specialized educational institutions with the training curricula.

Throughout the project, the tasks that were distributed at the beginning were carried out successfully by all the partners, and all the activities were carried out in a climate of open collaboration and communication.



PHOTOS FROM FINAL PROJECT MEETING – ROMANIA



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PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The temporal perspective of the project focuses on economic and social durability variables (better access on the European labour market, efficiency and efficacy, equality of chances, equity, well being), as well as on cultural variables (cultural identity, traditions, way of life). By promoting a model for the development of the professional abilities of the future sports instructors, the outcomes of the project (five curricula gathered together within a brochure, thematic mini-dictionary, CD) and the activities that were carried out are the departing point for a future training process. The project offers its beneficiaries the opportunity to evolve professionally, as well as on a personal level.

Our institution intends to apply for other projects that represent an extension, a continuation of the current undertaking in the area of training and professional qualification according to the EQF. These will capitalize on the experiences we have gathered and will amplify the results: methodologies for practical training, evaluation and certification systems, quality assurance systems, a workbook within the practical training module.

The curricula we have proposed can be used, improved and developed by NGOs and training institutions which could result in a higher degree of qualification of the sports instructors, and in a higher level of professional insertion.

The learning activities proposed by the curricula will be included in our school's own documents with the aim to involve the students in organizing contests and leisure time activities, in training groups of children / teenagers.

The contents of the thematic mini-dictionary will be used within our foreign language classes. The teachers will create communication contexts that are similar to those a sports instructor would have to deal with in order to ensure their familiarization with the linguistic framework of their profession.

EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE

While working together around a common topic, the partners have shared information regarding their national educational system and the national qualification framework in order to find out what the common points are so that they should design a sports curriculum that meets the professional demands of each of the countries involved. At the same time, the shared experience in the training area has made it possible for the partners involved to incorporate this knowledge in the final products, making them accessible for all those who would be interested to gather information in the sports instructor training area.

The partnership has also opened new possibilities for collaboration, both on a national as well as on an international level. This is due to the fact that, by applying a common training strategy, it has established a set of theoretical and practical coordinates for the professional training of the future sports instructors that could be flexibly complemented by further activities, according to the needs.

You can find us at ...

<http://eqf-sports.eu>



CONTACT

Project coordinator:

Prof. Irina Prodan - Liceul cu Program Sportiv Iași, Romania

E-mail: iprodan2001@yahoo.com

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