



Lifelong Learning Programme



NEWSLETTER 2

PROJECT LEONARDO DA VINCI

CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR ROPE ACCESS – EPCRA

Project No. 2013-4329 / 539262-LLP-1-2013-1-
FR- Leonardo- LMP

<http://www.epcra.eu>



PARTNERS:

GIP FIPAG, FRA



GRETAVIVA 5, FRA



ANETVA, ESP



Tindai, ESP



FISAT, GER



Seilpartner, GER



SOFT, NO



CDI, BGR





Third newsletter published in connection with the European funded research project EPCRA „European Professional Certification for Rope Access“ financed through the LEONARDO DA VINCI programme for vocational education and training.

A rope access technician is a person who achieves a safe work position at height or in areas of difficult access using ropes.

The Rope Access Trade has become more professional over time. Thanks to the improvement of equipment and the contribution of mountaineering, climbing and caving techniques, work safety for rope access technicians has been improved in response to the specific needs of working at height in difficult locations. The rope access industry generates employment and specialized companies are strongly compromised to the specific training of their personnel.

The opening of new markets and the opportunities of development inside and outside the European Union, promotes a reflection of the process of harmonization of the training and certification to facilitate the theoretical and the practical recognition of the profession. The final aim of the project is the conception, based on the experience of 4 European countries, of a "European Certification" adapted to the employment of rope access technicians and in conformity with the European Qualifications Framework. It will be classified in one of 8 European levels and there will be a number of ECVET credits attributed to it according to European recommendations. This new certification will contribute to the improvement and harmonization of the competence of the rope access technician and will be applied by the countries that want to be included in this process.

Content of the second project newsletter

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Methodology used | page 2 |
| 2. Project outcomes | page 3 |
| ✓ Reference of professional activities and competences | |
| ✓ Reference for the certification | |
| ✓ Modular training program for rope access technicians | |
| ✓ Training program for trainers | |
| ✓ Training program for jury members | |
| 3. Next steps | page 4 |

Methodology used

The competency based approach, a methodology most European training systems are based on, has been used to develop the reference levels as well as the training programs.

Competency based teaching gives meaning and legitimacy to adult vocational training practices.

The idea behind it is break down a profession or job in separate actions in order to identify and describe all required skills in detail. The identified actions are reflecting the actual needs on site and are transferred into specific training contents.

The project partners have chosen this way to create the references and training programs. The documents developed during the project are the result of a creative and solid partnership and represent a broad agreement.

Organizations from four countries are involved in this project and represent the essential players of the rope access industry: contractors, employers, technicians and trainers.



To achieve this goal, a project coordinator with certain decision making competences has been established. This institution functions as consultant and monitors the tough schedule. Several national and international working groups meeting on a regular basis were installed.

During the so call steering committee meetings representatives from all partners are gathering to validate the results and outcomes.

Project outcomes

During the EPCRA-project the following documents were created:



Referential of professional activities and competences

The referential of professional activities and competences for rope access technicians is divided into three sections, the so-called functions. It describes all access related duties the holder of the certificate must be capable to fulfill during professional rope access operations.

Each of the three functions is described in detail by several activities.

An activity contains several tasks describing the single steps to fulfill it. In addition, all necessary conditions, processes and used methods are listed and observable and measurable criteria are assigned ("How do we see and evaluate if a rope access technician fulfills a specific task in the correct and described way?"). Last but not least the expected learning outcomes are formulated. Learning outcomes are divided in knowledge, skills and competences that are necessary to fulfill a task.



Reference for the certification

The referential for the certification describes the competences a rope access technician has to develop and contains eight certification units. Each unit equals one independent assessment. Those certification units are based on the analysis of established certification procedures in the various partner countries.

The partners developed a flow chart and procedures describing the access method to the different assessments for three categories of candidates: novices to the profession, holders of a valid rope access certificate issued by an established certification system or rope access association and persons without formal training and certification but with sufficient and provable experience in rope access operations.

In the course of the project three certification units were identified and described, that all future holders of the newly created European certificate have to pass. No matter if they are holding a valid certificate or not.



The existing national standards for the certification of rope access technicians do not or not sufficiently cover the total organization of operations and the necessary emergency and rescue procedures on big constructions sites. The created references represent a real additional benefit for all partners.



Modular training program for rope access technicians

A modular training program with 20 independent modules has been created using the referential of professional activities and competences. Each module relates to one of the three functions and at least one task. Passing a training module helps to pass one or more of the eight certification units, as training modules and certification units are interlinked.

To follow the logic of the modular training organization and in order to enable a step-by-step admission to the different assessments, the pre-requirements for each training module as well as the corresponding certification unit are listed in the module description.



Training program for trainers and jury members

Those programs aim to enable trainers and jury members (assessors) to work with the newly created references. That means that trainers achieve competences in excerpting essential information regarding conception and presentation of the training contents from the documents. Jury members will be familiarized with the assessment procedures and performance criteria.

From October 2015 to January 2016 experimental trainings for trainers and assessors were held in France, Spain and Germany. In total more than 40 persons took part in those trainings.

Next steps

Experimental training and certification of rope access technicians according to the newly created guidelines has already begun in the three countries and will be finished within the next months.



All project outcomes can be found on the project website: <http://www.epcra.eu>

“This document has been prepared for the European Commission however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.”