



NEWSLETTER 3

PROJECT LEONARDO DA VINCI

CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR ROPE ACCESS – EPCRA

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<http://www.epcra.eu>



Partners:

GIP FIPAG, FRA



GRETAVIVA 5, FRA



ANETVA, ESP



Tindai, ESP



FISAT, GER



Seilpartner, GER



SOFT, NOR



CDI, BGR



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА
РАЗВИТИЕ И ВЪВЕЖДАНЕ
НА ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПРАКТИКИ



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 third project newsletter

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Testing and experimentation | page 2 |
| 2. Publication of the project outcomes | page 3 |
| 3. Potential impact and chances | page 4 |

Testing and experimentation

In the course of the project the developed training modules and certification units were tested during the experimentation phase. The partners used these tests to double check the created programs regarding substantive consistency, practicability and feasibility. 10 trainers, 10 jury members and 12 technicians were trained – some of them certified - in selected modules in each of the three partner countries. Those test trainings were met with great interest and proofed that the project outcomes are of high quality and have the potential to meet the needs of a growing international market. When the chosen methods are respected and due to the fact that the total approach is in conformity with the European Qualifications Framework, the newly created certification could define a new standard. Established certification systems for rope access might follow the described procedures in the future.

As the documents provide information regarding duration, intended learning outcomes and contents of each module, the instructor may spice up the training sessions with his own style and personalize the course without taking the risk to loose sight of the general goal or neglect certain contents. In addition, national



specifics can be covered, what is absolutely necessary due to varying rules and regulations within the member states. Nevertheless, a harmonized training for rope access technicians can still be provided.

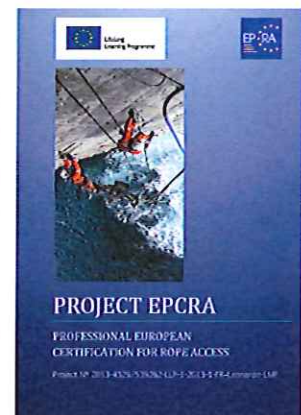
During this stage of the project it became clear that knowledge about the existence and the philosophy of the European Qualifications Framework is not very common. A certain amount of time had to be spent to familiarize trainers and jury members with information and correlations in order to enable them to work with the new documents.

Publication of the project outcomes



Brochures and documents

Training programs for rope access technicians, trainers and jury members as well as a quality chart and the references for professional activities and competences and the certification are available in English, French, German and Spanish. The files can be downloaded on the project website www.epcra.eu. A printed brochure describing the project and summing up the essential outcomes is also available in four languages, a CD containing all documents that were developed during the project is enclosed. The brochure can be obtained via the national rope access associations.



National dissemination seminars

After finishing the documents in June 2016 national dissemination seminars were scheduled in the three partner countries France, Germany and Spain. Representatives of several authorities, employers, technicians and trainers related to the rope access industry were invited. Between 20 and 60 participants were present at the various events. Besides the information about the project outcomes, the ideas and chances behind the newly created certification and the visions and perspectives, there has been sufficient time for exchange and fruitful discussions.



June 3rd, 2016, Madrid / Spain



International dissemination seminar

In order to present the results on an international level, the coordinating partner GIP FIPAG organized the international dissemination seminar on June 24th, 2016 in Grenoble / France. Main target was to reach as many rope access associations as possible. Decision-makers and board members from Portugal, Romania, Sweden and the UK signaled their interest. This seminar also marked the end of the last official meeting of all project partners, that took place in Grenoble between June 22nd and June 24th.



20.06.2016, Berlin / Germany

Potential impact and chances

The results and outcomes of the project are available free of charge and can be used by interested training companies or certification bodies. The European Commission only confirms the conformity with the requirements of the European Qualifications Framework and cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained in the documents.

After finishing the project, the partners will stay in contact and discuss further cooperation and the possibility to provide the newly created certification.

Over a period of 2 ½ years a theoretical base has been created that contains the knowledge and competence of several experienced partners and is absolutely unique in the rope access industry. The outcome reflects a state of the art on the highest European level.

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