



# EXPERTS GROUP - Green Competences for Ecotourism in the Danube Region

## Minute of the Kick-Off Meeting

Date and location of the venue:

**9<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, Bucharest, Romania**

Participants (see attached list):

1. Representatives of the following Countries of the Danube Region: AT, BG, CZ, HR, ME, RO, SK
2. European Training Foundation (ETF)

## Agenda

### **Registration of participants**

### **Official opening and welcome**

- ❖ Representative of the Romanian National Centre for TVET Development
- ❖ Representative of the Ministry of National Education and Research of Romania

### **Tour de table – short presentation of each expert’s background, represented institution and areas of interest in the field**

### **Presentation of the objectives, possible actions and envisaged results of the experts’ group**

### **Presentation of a first draft proposal for an application on TVET international project in the field of green competences for Ecotourism in the Danube Region**

### **Presentation of the Erasmus+ opportunities**

### **Plenary discussion on key aspects for common actions**

### **Conclusions and agreement on next steps**

**Agenda Item**

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| <b>1. Opening of the Meeting</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Zoica Vlăduț, deputy director at the National Centre for TVET Development (NCTVETD) welcomes the participants and thanks them for their presence and their commitment; she underlines the intention of NCTVETD to prepare an application on the theme of “greening” VET tourism, to be submitted for funding, under the Erasmus+, K2 – Strategic partnership, the 2015 call;</li> <li>- Mrs. Liliana Preoteasa, Subsecretary of State in the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, makes an introduction to the scope of the meeting and of the expected results; she emphasizes that it is important to start from what has already been achieved on the domain in the participating countries. The focus should be on developing a common framework for „greening” competencies in tourism.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2. Tour de table</b>  | <p>a short presentation of each expert’s background, represented institution and areas of interest in the field</p>  |
| <b>3. Presentation of the objectives, possible actions and envisaged results of the experts’ group</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Camelia Ghetu, NCTVETD’ EXPERT, presents a first draft proposal of an application on the theme of “greening” VET tourism, to be submitted for funding under the Erasmus+, K2 – Strategic partnership, the 2015 call;</li> <li>- On the discussions’ following the presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mrs. Liliana Preoteasa remarks that the draft project presented is too ambitious, being actually an action plan; the objectives and expected results need to be rediscussed and reduced, so that they become feasible under the possible funds available;</li> <li>o Mr. Medek Michal, from Kapraluv mlyn Environmental Education Centre &amp; Masaryk University, Brno, stresses that the project can use the results that are being developed in an EU cofounded project, on Knowledge Alliance for HE, coordinated by Czech Republik representatives;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>4. Presentation of the Erasmus+ opportunities</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Olivia Jidveian, representative of the Romanian National Agency for Community Programs for Education and Professional Development, presents the opportunities offered by Erasmus+ programme as regards funding strategic partnership initiatives in the VET domain.</li> <li>- Mrs Monika Mott, Head of Education of KulturKontakt Austria, remarks that the group has to clearly define in the initial step, which are the areas addressed by the project; it can be either eco-tourism, if the</li> </ul>  |
| <b>5. Plenary</b>  |  |

**discussion on  
key aspects for  
common actions**

participants consider that this subsector is strong enough in the participating countries OR, it can be the “greening” of the whole tourism sector;

- Mrs. Vesna Hrvoj-Šić, from the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, suggests that it might be a better solution to cluster the interested countries and to submit 2,3 applications aiming to asses different needs and produce feasibilities studies, prior to submitting a big policy project on the topic of „greening: VET tourism; she also considers that the development of modules for „greening“ the catering sector OR the tourism sector could be of high interest for participating countries;
- Mrs. Cristina Sandu, from the Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy, and coordinator of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (EUSDR PA 06) suggests to write an application aiming to develop a joint strategy in the Danube Region on the topic *“education skills for greening the tourism sector”*, considering that it requires a transdisciplinary cooperation with different policy sectors and could benefit from the support of EUSDR PA 3 (Tourism and Culture), but participants consider that this could hardly lead to concrete relevant results, due to the diversity of the VET systems and the restrictive national regulations in place;
- Mr Constantin Serban, from the Romanian Greentourism Association stresses, in line with Mrs.Monika Mott,’s point of view, the need to extend the areas addressed by the green competences project to all tourism sector , not only to eco tourism destinations surrounding the central protected areas. Highlighting the need to clarify the used syntagms and to revise the pleonastic concept of “sustainable eco tourism” , he emphasizes that areas currently out of ecotourism destinations who develop green tourism services, in all Danube Region, should be also taken into account..
- Mr Florin Pasatoiu, from the Romanian Institute for Policy Development, stresses that we need conceptual clarity; the scope of the application should be wider, as we need to address the basic needs in the sector and we also need that „people buy the idea“;
- Mrs. Liliana Preoteasa remarks that the aim of the project should be to define what is needed in “greening” tourism and build the ideal profile of the personnel involved;
- Mr. Andrei Blumer, from the Association of Ecotourism in Romania, mentions that the application could either add competences to existing qualifications in the tourism sector or address the needs of “green entrepreneurs” in tourism or develop new qualifications for the sector (e.g. related to destinations’ management).
- **Mrs Zoica Vladut stresses that the number of partners in a K2 – Strategic partnership application can’t exceed 10 (due to**

**6. Conclusions  
and agreement  
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- restrictions of management funds); the participants agree that each country should first of all consider to involve in the project the VET National Agency OR the National Education Institutes (or similar organisations with national responsibilities) and then to include up to 3 organisations/structures reflecting the labour market perspective (Sectoral Committees and/or tourism companies and/or NGO working on the field);
- the participants agree that the scope of the project should be to develop a common framework for green competencies in tourism;
- Mr Constantin Serban, in the last short PPT presentation of the meeting, stresses the need of at good cooperation between the eco tourism and the green tourism sectors, in order to address the “greening” of the entire tourism services sector;
- **main conclusions** regarding the project that were articulated around the table: the project shall focus on
  - o **identifying the green competencies for tourism;**
  - o **comparison of national qualification criteria;**
  - o **proposing greening of the criteria and suggesting qualifications based on comparison of qualifications in partner countries.**

This might lead to follow-up projects in the future on:

  - o development of VET and professional training courses;
  - o definition of new qualifications (e.g. destination manager);
  - o mutual recognition of qualifications (this point was mentioned in the discussion without clarification of correspondence with existing Directive 2005/36/EC and European Qualifications Framework).
- **expression of interest of each organisation must be sent BEFORE 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015, at the following addresses:**
  - o **vet@tvet.ro**
  - o **vladut@tvet.ro**
  - o **dana.stroie@yahoo.com**
- a second meeting, in the autumn of 2015, should be organised to deepen the discussions and agree the application’s details.

**Annex 1:** Background paper

**Annex 2:** Presentation of the objectives, possible actions and envisaged results of the experts’ group

**Annex 3:** Presentation of the Erasmus+ opportunities

**Annex 4:** List of participants