

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

*“Professionalising training and mobility for Outdoor animators in Europe bridging the gap between sector Competences and Learning Otcomes” **CLO2**
UK/08/LLP-LdV/TOI/163_178*

Project duration:

Two years from 1st October 2008 to 30th September 2010.

Context:

At a European level, the outdoors sub-sector is a fast growing and developing activity area. The outdoors thrives in a **wide range of delivery and employment contexts** including public sector, commercial, charitable, not-for-profit and voluntary. As a consequence, workforce needs (both paid and voluntary) are increasing rapidly and organisations operating within the sector are seeking well trained, quality workers (animators in this context), able to match the requirements of more and more demanding clients and users.

Unfortunately until now, there has been **no formal link** at European level between the **competences required** by outdoor employers and organisations, and the **learning outcomes** acquired by the employees through training supplied by training providers, no matter how good this training may have been.

In other words, never have European outdoor employers mutually agreed, the functions and competences they required, nor has a bridge ever been established between these requirements and the vocational and educational training provided by training bodies. The first step, the development of a range of integrated documents including **Occupational Descriptions** for Assistant Outdoor Animator, Outdoor Animator and Specialised Outdoor Animator roles, plus a **Functional Map** and a **Competence Framework** for the Outdoor Animator role, has now been completed under the previous EQFOA – European Qualifications Framework Outdoor Animator project (www.eqfoa.eu) supported by Leonardo de Vinci.

Aims and outcomes:

The main aim of this follow-on European outdoors project is to bridge from EQFOA's Functional Map and Competence Framework, to the skills and learning outcomes delivered by the training providers in the field. CLO2's work activities will:

- Establish the importance and **level of the competences** required by the employers in line with the European Qualifications Framework;
- Develop the learning outcomes and match them with the competences (knowledge, skills, behaviours/attitudes) required bringing them together in a '**Unit and Credit Framework**';
- Set a methodology for an **accreditation and verification process** together with an organised pilot to test these developments.

The planned outcomes of this project are:

- The **description of the learning outcomes** required to support the identified competences for outdoor animators;
- A methodology handbook and a **formal accreditation process**;
- The **transparency and effectiveness** of the **vocational education and training** system in the outdoor sub-sector;

- A **comparability study** which explores and illustrates the relationship between the different organisational types operating in the outdoors – public sector, commercial, charitable/not-for-profit and voluntary (it is clear this varies from country to country);
- The recognition of the **mobility issues** for the benefit of all the stakeholders, namely the employers, the employees and the training providers;
- A **quality career development structure** and agreed occupational standards, which will positively impact on the development, growth and quality of the whole sector.

Targets:

The core strength of the outdoors comes from its diversity, in terms of the range of activities, the range of purposes, the range of organisations and delivery methods, and also the range of participants as individuals and groups. Stakeholders are equally diverse, covering a wide range of commercial, public and voluntary organisations across Europe. The outdoor animator defined by the footprint of this project, may be found in many guises within these environments, and it is those looking to enter the role and those already within the role, who will be amongst the key beneficiaries of the project's outcomes. However, the existence of diversity in itself does not guarantee that diversity will be best used to the benefit of the outdoors and its organisations and participants. For the potential and powerful benefits of diversity to be maximised, a carefully developed strategy needs to be created and utilised.

The project's developments will also act as a platform to enable training providers to align the content of their programmes with the qualification needs of employers established at the European level. In turn, employers will also be in a stronger position to meet the needs of their client base by means of staff with the right skills, knowledge and attitudes. All will be recipients of the benefits of a mutually agreed, transparent outdoor qualification framework.

Needs of the sector:

The needs of the sector have been identified through employer representative bodies. The sector wants:

- An accredited, comparable and transparent **sector qualification structure**;
- **Training programmes** echoing **employer and market needs**;
- **High quality, trained employees**;
- The **mobility of appropriately qualified employees** to be encouraged and enabled.

The CLO2 project (building upon work from the previous EQFOA project) will take a huge step towards meeting these needs. It will provide a solution jointly agreed by employers and training providers that will encourage and maintain the continued growth and development of the active outdoor leisure labour markets.

Future potential:

An increasing number of European countries are showing an interest, and joining in on the dialogue on common vocational and educational training processes. The project partnership has bloomed **from nine countries** in EQFOA **to twelve** in CLO2, demonstrating the increasing desire amongst EU states to work collaboratively for the benefit of the sector.

This cross-state working will produce a reciprocally agreed accreditation process, which sets a precedent for further and ongoing development of common qualification structures for outdoor sector roles. At the core of these developments is the fundamental need to ensure that the diversity of the outdoors and its operation is actively supported, and that different 'strands' of the outdoors actively demonstrate mutual respect and a sense of valuing each other.

Project partnership:

The partners working together to achieve these ambitious and fundamental activities have been selected for their particular competences in the fields addressed: firstly **a group of outdoor employers' unions** that will analyse and fine-tune the results of the EQFOA project (Occupational map, Functional Map and Competence Framework for Outdoor Animators), in order to present it to training providers in a logical and detailed way, and secondly **a group of training providers** that will establish the learning/knowledge outcomes needed by future students/trainees in order to match the competences requested, and to set a coherent methodology for a quality assurance framework within the field in Europe.

A third group composed of the main sector European organisations will help and support the consortium with both desk research and primary research on the one hand, and also consultation, dissemination and distribution into the wider landscape of the Sport and Active Leisure Sector on the other.

	Country	Partner	Long name
P0	UK	SkillsActive	SkillsActive (Promoter) – www.skillsactive.com
P1	FR	SNELM	Syndicat National des Entreprises exploitant les activités physiques récréatives des Loisirs Marchands (Supporter) – www.snelm.org
P2	NL	VeBON	Verening Van Buitensport Ondernemingen Nederland – www.vebon.nl
P3	PT	APECATE	Associação Portuguesa das Empresas de Congressos Animação Turística e Eventos - www.apecate.pt
P4	IE	ILAM	Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management Ireland Ltd – www.ilam.ie
P5	BE	BFNO	Beroeps Federatie van Natuursport Ondernemingen – www.bfno.be
P6	LT	LAPE	Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education – www.lkka.lt
P7	FI	SIF Vierumaki	Sport Institute of Finland (Supporter) – www.vierumaki.fi
P8	FR	UCBL	Université Claude Bernard Lyon I – www.univ-lyon1.fr
P9	IE	Tralee Univ.	Institute of Technology, Tralee - www.itt.ie
P10	EE	Tallinn Univ.	Tallinn University - www.tlu.ee
P11	EL	Thrace Univ.	Democritus University of Thrace – www.duth.gr
P12	BE	KH Leuven	Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven – www.khleuven.be
P13	FI	Haaga-Helia	Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences (Supporter) - www.haaga-helia.fi
P14	EU	EC-OE	European Confederation of Outdoor Employers (Supporter) – no website
P15	EU	EASE	European Association of Sport Employers – www.easesport.org
P16	HU	ICSE	Institute of Coaching and Sport Education - www.icse.hu
P17	EU	ENSSEE	European Network of Sport Science, Education and Employment – www.enssee.de
P18	EU	EOSE	European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (Supporter) – www.eose.org

PROMOTING ORGANISATION

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