

Bricklayer Project

Introduction:

The project is investigating possibilities, means and problems associated with implementation of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the development of a sectoral qualifications framework in relation to a particular occupation, bricklaying. Its aim is to further the recognition of bricklaying qualifications and competences by enhancing their transparency and comparability, thereby increasing the effectiveness of mobility and the quality of labour across Europe. It seeks to overcome some of the challenges posed to EQF implementation by the diversity of qualifications and VET.

The project extends over 21 months, from October 2008 to June 2010 and involves an evaluation of the nature and content of bricklaying qualifications in 8 EU countries (Belgium, England, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Poland), based on macro and company/site studies. It will include different learning pathways (formal and informal), associated curricula and job profiles. The different components will be related to National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs) (where applicable), the EQF, ECVET, and the emerging sectoral framework. The project is based on the active participation of European and national social partners, crucial to the application of EQF and ECVET to particular occupations, which relies on re-interpretation at sector and occupational levels. Key outputs will be: national focus groups and context reports on bricklaying qualifications and VET; a seminar and conference to discuss a transnational synthesis report; a final report in English on similarities and differences across Europe; and proposals for discussion by European Social Partners and their national members on a possible agreement concerning mutual recognition of qualifications.