

ECO STANDS FOR

Summary

The aim of the project is to develop high quality standards of the vocational training for European Eco Counselling - Offices.

In general Eco Counselling organisations and Eco Counsellors give advise to private households, consumers, enterprises as well as local, regional and national authorities and governments and multipliers (teachers, journalists, ...), how to fulfil the targets of sustainable development. Eco Counselling organisations and Eco Counsellors are mediators between the public, companies, authorities, scientists and politicians. Another important working field of Eco Counselling is the development of pioneering projects and solution-oriented proposals based on experience gained. Eco-counsellors' specificity is working for increasing of environmental protection in public policies not only with a technical skill but also by promoting a participatory stakeholder and citizenship approach in order to obtain voluntary agreements rather than permanent conflicts.

The thread of this Leonardo-da-Vinci project is the following question: What kind of competences, know-how does an Eco Counsellor need to transmit her or his knowledge to target groups, multipliers, citizens, ...

Within the project there are several work packages planned:

Development of Quality Standards of Eco Counselling – according to perspectives and principals of gender mainstreaming and sustainable development. The basis of the quality standards will be the needs of the participating countries. The quality standards are a milestone on the way to obtain acceptance and the establishment of the job profile of “Eco Counselling”.

Development of Vocational Training Concepts: On the basis of the quality standards a certain number of training modules (e.g. training course, E-learning modules) will be developed. The modules are accompanied by training materials in English and some in the national languages of participating countries. The vocational training modules have – according the various number of partners all over Europe – an European background and European purpose. The following modules are planned:

- E-learning modules contain the so called “basic skills” like eco-knowledge in general, environmental law, ... The E-learning modules will be translated in the national languages of the participating countries.
- The vocational Train-The-Trainer-Course contains the social and communicative competences and as well as the competences in methods.

Test Stage and Accompanied Evaluation: The E-learning modules will be tested within the participating organisations. Approximately 20 Eco-Counsellors from the participating countries will take part in the training course. The working language will be English. The course should require about 15 days for common learning. After a successful attendance the participants of the course get a certification.

Gender Consulting: Gender Mainstreaming is one of the horizontal guideline of all EU programmes and activities, defined in the Treaty of Amsterdam. In this project there will be gender consulting during the current time to implement the perspectives and criteria of gender

mainstreaming within the project. The aim of the gender consulting is – first of all – to improve awareness raising within the project-team and the responsible persons. Secondly gender criteria will be applied as a standard within the contents and used methods in the project. Analysis, development of quality standards and training concepts are focussed on the strategy of Gender Mainstreaming. Gender Training will be one important part of the vocational training course.

The lobbying for the quality standards of the vocational training will be done on the European and national level. The implementation of the quality standards for the vocational training will be fulfilled on the national level of the participating countries. The dissemination will be on national and European level.

The multinational and multisectoral partnership between environmental and educational organizations as well as universities and training institutes strengthens a transnational character of experience sharing. The development of skills aimed at main topic of the environment will be combined with the use of new technologies (E-learning modules).

The partnership between EU member states and accession countries guarantees a transfer of experience and knowledge and that's why the project supports the inclusion of the accession countries to the European Union.