

State of the art of Ecosign project after 18 Months of activity

Ecosign is a 3-year project co-funded by The Erasmus+ Program of the European Union, started on 1st November 2015, with the core objective to eliminate the lack of knowledge and skills of designers in industries related to eco-design and sustainable production. The final aim of Ecosign project is to develop and recognize a Joint Curricula on product eco-design by implementing innovative methods in e-learning and recommendations for face-to-face learning that will be available on the Ecosign platform at the end of the project foreseen on 31 October 2018.

Ecosign has been divided into 9 Work Packages each focusing on a specific goal such as:

- WP1: Definition of competence and skill needs,
- WP2: Definition of training path & learning content
- WP3: training course development,
- WP4: Training course delivery
- WP5: Pilot test experience
- WP6: Dissemination & Exploitation
- WP7: Quality Assurance
- WP8: Monitoring and evaluation
- WP9: Project coordination

12 partners form the project consortium: VET providers (Cetem, Centrocot, Ecoevalind, University of Maribor), VET Authorities (AICQ- SICEV, CPI, CNFPO-SEF, CSFPM), Sector Experts (CTC, Iba, Tecos, TexClubTec).

In the following paragraphs, the main results achieved in definition of content and some goals for the next months are defined.

Further information will be uploaded on Ecosign website www.ecosign-project.eu regularly. To stay informed on topics on Eco-design please visit our social profiles Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook.



WP1: Definition of skills needs

WP1 has defined the skills needs for designers (workers and students) regarding eco-innovation. The different analyses have been focused in three sectors: electronic, textile and food packing. The main achievements have been:

- To define the methodology for researching competences needs in positions in the three sectors regarding concepts in eco-innovation.
- To define vocational skills, knowledge and competence mismatches between designers of the three sectors regarding concepts within the mentioned learning branches.

WP1 has been integrated by three tasks:

- T.1.1: Define the methodology and select the research tools. Project partners discussed and decided the research methodologies for the desk research, the questionnaires research and the experts committees to be performed in order to have a harmonised approach in all participant countries.
- T1.2 Carry out the analysis using the defined tools in T.1.1: This task identified the main needs and requirements in participating countries regarding concepts of the learning pillars applied to the three sectors, and their knowledge, skills and competences. For these purposes, each project partner carried out a desk research analysis extracting the learning outcomes needed: Knowledge, skills and competences (according to EQF). On the other hand a questionnaire survey research showed the skills, knowledge and competences needs in manufacturing SMEs. Furthermore 4 experts committees have been created in Spain, Romania, Italy and Slovenia that will help not only this WP but all of them with their experience. The needs of 160 professionals, from the different sectors, have been analysed (40 per participant country)

- T1.3 Describe the qualification profiles by learning outcomes per country. On the basis of the three research results (desk, survey and experts), the project partners have set up a qualification profile for their respective country. VET authorities have identified NQPs related with industrial design to be used as a basic for the new eco-designer.

Through the different studies that have been performed by WP1 partners (desk research, questionnaires and experts committees) the consortium now knows exactly the lacks and necessities that the companies from their sectors are having in eco-design and eco-innovation in general.

WP1 ended with the achievement of Milestone1-Evidence-Based definition of skills needs in the food/packaging, clothing and electronic goods sector regarding concepts of eco-innovation with 160 participants in all partner countries.

Two confidential deliverables have been issued in this WP: Research methodology including questionnaire and Analysis of the target group
After WP1 and based on its achievements ECOSIGN VET providers will work together in WP2 designing the training path (M2) and developing the necessary teaching materials for the common JCV of the eco-designer in WP3.

The training courses available online are the result of a research carried out in the three sectors involved in Spain, Romania, Slovenia and Italy and have the aim to fulfill the lack of knowledge and / or updating needs on the theme of sustainability throughout all production processes.

In particular, sustainability, such as energy saving, water resources and replacement of products with lower impact alternatives, is one of the drivers that, together with new technologies, allow companies to be more competitive both on domestic and foreign market.

Courses are free and divided into two modules. The first introduces the topic of eco-design considering various aspects, such as general principles, trends, legislative framework, life cycle cost analysis and environmental management systems. The second module, on the other hand, will introduce Eco-design principles for each specific sector. At the end of the course a "project work" is foreseen where participants will have to set up a "close to market" project by applying expertise and knowledge acquired during the course.

Training courses will be targeted both at professional already enrolled in companies and students enabling them to acquire knowledge and skills in environmental technologies. At the end of the courses, participants will be able to combine their skills with a good knowledge of materials and processes, standards and laws, and apply techniques in an eco-design logic.

Although training courses will be available early next year, the registration will be opened shortly followed by a selection of the participants starting from Autumn, which will be based on the evaluation of Curriculum Vitae and on an interview. At the moment, it is already possible to express your interest in the course by filling out the attached form and sending it to: info@ecosign-project.eu

WP5: Pilot Test.

FREE REGISTRATION TO TEST THE ON-LINE ECOSIGN TRAINING COURSE - NOW OPEN

Starting November 2017, the experimental phase of the ECOSIGN project will be kicked off with the implementation of "Pilot Cases experiences", which will test the training paths developed by partners for the following sectors: food packaging, electric & electronic goods, textile & clothing.

Partners of the Ecosign Project

