

PURE-H2O Project Newsletter

The Purpose of the Project

PURE-H2O was developed to provide a tool that will promote transparent environmental planning and education in the development of sustainable and sound practices in the area of potable water and related treatment plants.

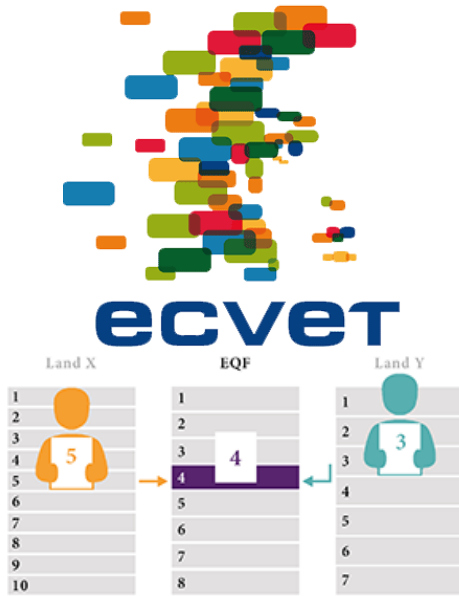
This project will contribute to the recognition and transparency of qualifications at the EU level and provide an innovative model for competencies for the potable water sector. Thereby, the VET institutions will have the means necessary to enhance the skill set as required in the various disciplines and workplaces to workers within the potable water supply field.

The main dilemma that PURE-H2O intends to tackle is the lack of mutual recognition of qualification that is often impaired by national restrictions by applying EUROPASS, EQF and ECVET instruments. Being that there are several partners from various countries within and outside the EU, it should help qualify and quantify what are the issues that seem to be the most in conflict with each other and provide a roadmap through these qualifying instruments that will apply not only to partner countries but EU-wide. The application of these instruments will also assist Turkey in the Adaption of Acquis and carrying out the 9th Development Plan as part of Turkey's accession process.



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What is ECVET & EQF?

ECVET and EQF are tools used by both VET trainers and employers to understand the level of capability and competence in any given professional areas of employment within the EU.

ECVET stands for the European Credit system for Vocational Education & Training. It is an EQF instrument to measure learning outcomes and can be used for various purposes such as to establish: descriptors of qualifications frameworks; define qualifications; design; curricula, assessment, etc.

Learning outcomes are assessed &

validated to transfer credits from one qualified system to another.

EQF stands for the European Qualifications Framework. It was created to make qualifications much more transparent, comparable & portable. In addition, it promotes, facilitates and assesses European workers' continuing training.

Through EQF, the European education systems is more flexible; it facilitates the validation of non-formal as well as informal learning; and it allows for the transfer & use of qualifications among different countries education & training systems.

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Project Products

The project products that will be developed during the two-year life cycle will include a web portal, network database, establishing a social networking profile on multiple platforms, a booklet "PURE-H2O Project: Challenges & Limitations," workshops and seminars, establishment of ECVET an accrediting plan and evaluation, as well as full courses, course materials, modules, learning objects, open learning objects, open textbooks, openly licensed (often streamed) videos, tests, software, and other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge



Supporting the Water Industry

The PURE-H2O project came about with the understanding that advanced water technology provides for a rise of green jobs and a desire improvement of the sector's training capacity and employability. An investigation into the potable water supply sector showed that in Turkey and in the

majority of EU countries, including those of the PURE-H2O partners, the national curricula for vocational education needs training resources in order to provide target groups with the necessary green competencies. It is also found that in most cases an unsatisfactory situation where there is a gap to be filled.

The PURE-H2O project intends to rectify the situation:

- supporting the exchange of good practices and promoting green competencies;
- presenting training materials in attractive and practically enriched model;
- gaining new jobs for young people in the potable water supply sector;
- exploring water business sector and its opportunities for young entrepreneurs in the partner countries, which is comprised of Turkey, Belgium & the Netherlands.

The consortium includes six partners and is composed of two universities, one university chamber, one research & development centre and two SMEs.

Additional Beneficiaries

During the lifecycle of the PURE-H2O project, partners will focus on creating a blended learning programme for the drinking water plants field of; building a structured model following EQF; formulating a skill passport combining common and novel documents presenting personal competency design; establishing a multilingual e-learning platform.

Through these project developments, the PURE-H2O project provides a qualification recognition model for target groups, which includes: teachers, trainers, learning facilitators, guidance professionals, school/institution managers and political decision makers.

The chemical and eco-engineering, environmental protection, biotechnology, healthcare, food industries/sectors need professionals with relevant and up-to-date qualifications that can be gained by following the PURE-H2O training pathways.

The PURE-H2O partnership between various institutions and national authorities contributes to the process of regulation, transparency and recognition of the qualifications at the national and European level.



Through “project developments, the PURE-H2O project provides a qualification recognition model for target groups...”

The Partners

The project partnership is comprised of six partners from three countries, with a significant number of the partners being from Turkey as the project looks to assist in Turkey's accession process.

The project promoter is Orkon International Engineering Training Consulting Co. Ltd., (Turkey), which is an international engineering, training, consulting and project design organisation. It works in infrastructure, water, environmental and transportation projects & design the environmental & water projects.

One of the universities is Niğde University (Turkey), which provides higher education to 20,000 students. It was an active member of Lifelong Learning Programme and continues its activities under ERASMUS +.

The second Turkish university is Gazi University with faculties from education to communication, from fine arts to engineering, sports to forestry, medicine to pharmacy, dentistry to science as well

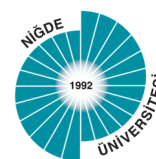
as economics to technology across five different campuses.

Planart (Turkey) is an SME working on environmental projects, and planning and urban design, including: regional and master planning at every scale, coastal zone management planning, multi hazard risk mitigation planning .

R&D Center "Biointech" Ltd., (Bulgaria) was founded in accordance with European strategic goal to increase the role of R & D in introducing new knowledge into education and technological innovations. It promotes research and development in the area of consumer & environmental friendly technologies and ICT.

The Open University of the Netherlands is internationally recognised as the No. 1 Dutch University for Online Learning. The Welten Institute is one of the biggest European & international research institutes in: technology-enhanced learning (TEL); effective, efficient & enjoyable learning (FEEEL); as well as teaching & teacher professionalization (TTP).

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Planart



Project Objectives

In order to achieve the goals of the PURE-H2O project partners will work together on the following objectives:

- Definition of joint learning outcomes (LO)-based blended learning model for the drinking water sector; establishment of innovative competence standards and qualifications' description approach in terms of content and target audience.
- Adaptation and development of VET courses in accordance with the defined qualification model and implementation of EQF/ISCO/ESCO principles.
- Use of ICT in training, teaching & learning activities. VET learning & teaching methodologies innovation.

Thus, the PURE-H2O project's major task is to improve the VET trainers' competence, especially in the context of the links between theory and practice to the learner-centred approach.

The tools for the qualifications' description are tested in various countries and sectors to check their feasibility and practical value.

The exploitation and use of the PURE-H2O learning outcomes gives prospects for successful post-project validation and accreditation of the new qualifications' recognition model and training programme, as well as for its future commercialization.

Transnational Meetings

Transnational meetings are attended by each partner at the various project partners' countries in order to ensure that the PURE-H2O project can maintain the synergies required to complete the goals of the project. The meetings give the partners the opportunity to review the status of the project face-to-face as well as provide an opportunity for partners to visit each others' countries in order gain perspective and a better understanding of what the project's overall impact will be in each country.



The PURE-H2O project's kick-off transnational meeting, co-hosted by Orkon and Planart, took place on April 28–29, 2015, in Ankara, Turkey. It focused on the initial stages of the project, the set up of tasks/outcomes and the general operational approach for the project's successful completion.

The second transnational meeting will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria from November 5th to 6th of this year and will be hosted by R & D Center "Biointech" Ltd. The ongoing status of the project will be reviewed and partners will assess if the project is on schedule and if any adjustments by the partners are required.

The Open University of the Netherlands will host the next meeting on the 12th and 13th of May next year in Amsterdam, Netherlands. This meeting will mark the mid-point of the project's life cycle where any issues and concerns regarding the completion of the project will be addressed.

At the final meeting before the wrap of the project, the partners will once again reunite in Turkey where Niğde University will be the host. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Niğde on August 24–25, 2016. The finalization of the project's products and responsibilities will be discussed and assessed.