

*PROJECT REPORT***TRANSFER OF INNOVATION IN METHODOLOGIES
FOR EUROPEAN OFFICIALS – FOLLOW-UP ON A
JOINT LEARNING PATH**

By

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SSAI (Scuola Superiore dell'Amministrazione dell'Interno), a training institute of the Italian Ministry of the Interior, whose mission is to train and develop the Italian Civil Service, has just accomplished an EU project titled “Transfer of Innovations in Methodologies for European Officials – Follow-up on a Joint Learning Path” in cooperation with its European partners.

Description of the project

This project (TOI n. 2009-1-CZ1-LEO05-02-056, contract n. CZ/09/LLP-LdV/TOI/1340011) was carried out from October 2009 through March 2011 within the Lifelong Learning Programme, more precisely within the sub-programme Leonardo da Vinci/Multilateral projects/Transfer of Innovation. It is a continuation of the project „Identifying and Validating Competencies of European Officials – A Road to a Joint Training“, which was carried out in the years 2005-2007.

- The aim was to pilot a training project for national public officials who, while carrying out their tasks, interact with both EU bodies and fellow officials of European countries.
- The purpose of this project was to harmonize the administrative procedures of EU member countries. It targeted the public administrations of EU member countries, which wish to optimize and orientate the training actions of their “European Officials” with the backdrop of the new European dimension.

But who can be considered a European official? The answer is: a national public official who cooperates with European counterpart administrations and carries out administrative tasks that go beyond national borders.

Aim

Briefly, the aim of the project was to create a joint, measurable training model by developing a methodology to detect standard public competencies in Europe. The training models can be applied to any selected area – for example policing – by administrations from any European country. By doing so, police officials from different European countries can be provided with standard training in order to operate in a European context. The model consists of the following working steps:

- analysis of competencies;
- selection of training objectives;
- concept and engineering of face-to-face and e-learning modules;
- modeling the working process.

The main elements of the project are: experiment, research, methodology, training, synergy, Europe, international. By combining these words, following targets can be deduced:

- a training methodology to be shared via research and experiment;
- create synergies in Europe;
- disseminate results at an international level.

Partnerships

This initiative is the outcome of cooperation between public officials and training experts from a group of European countries: Italy, the Czech Republic, Portugal, and Bulgaria. Knowledge and experiences have been shared among the project partners in search for a standard training methodology in order to develop a common administrative culture and language to support the harmonization process at the very core of a united Europe.

- **Scuola Superiore dell'Amministrazione dell'Interno** – (SSAI) Italy (www.ssai.interno.it)
- **Institute for Public Administration Prague** (IPA) - Czech Republic (www.institutpraha.cz)
- **Instituto Nacional de Administração** - Portugal (www.ina.pt)
- **Institute for Public Administration** – Bulgaria (www.ipaei.government.bg)

All these partners have been cooperating for a long time and they are members of the network of European Public Administration Schools and Institutions.

The project lasted 18 months - the realization phase was carried out from October 2009 through March 2011 and was co-financed by the EU for 75% of the project funds

Project results

The project focused on training officials from EU member states – especially ministerial officials and officials of self-government bodies. Its main aim was to create five training modules, more specifically to update and extend three modules from the previous project and create two new modules focused on the social area. Officials who attend a module and pass the related test will be able to solve difficult situations and obtain a better orientation in the given topic.

These training modules were developed in the face-to-face as well as the e-learning form. Modules focus on following topics:

1. *Free movement of persons (border control in the Schengen area)*
2. *Right of asylum (international protection within the EU: current developments of the right of asylum)*
3. *Crisis management (basic elements for managing European social crisis with transnational impact)*
4. *Keeping up with the pulse of integration of migrant women*
5. *Active inclusion of migrant women*

The main tangible outcome of the above five courses for face-to-face and e-learning training is the catalogue of competencies of European Officials in the areas concerned and the methodology of five training modules. Moreover, a lecturer and a tutor handbook and study support for trainees have been designed. Among intangible re-

sults, the most relevant one is the extension of skills, competencies and attitudes in the five areas described above.

In order to disseminate the project results to potential stakeholders and users, a final meeting was held at SSAI, on March 15th 2012.

Methods

Who worked on the project and how? Project managers, experts, instructional designers, stakeholders from each partner country have worked together in a transnational group where all the members have exchanged information, knowledge, and experience in order to:

- share a methodology
- deduce the training goals
- identify the competencies
- design common training modules on those competencies
- experiment with the common training modules within the different national environments
- encourage communications and the professional exchange among officials of various administrations within the EU
- train a trainers' transnational task force

Conclusions

The main innovation of this project lies in the search for and experimentation with a methodology to deduce the basic competencies of European officials, whereas competence means any knowledge, skills, and

behavior necessary for public officials to professionally carry out their tasks within a European background. On the basis of the competencies defined, scientifically measurable and standard training pathways have been developed. These can be used and reproduced by any interested administration from any given European country, police authorities included.

In conclusion, the aspects that make the project particularly interesting with a view to improving the administrative work in supporting the service quality provided by the public administration are:

- The project provides a methodology that can be used by any European country in any activity sector of the public administration.
- It experiments the effectiveness of a shared methodology on subjects of common interest for partners.
- It furnishes results to whoever may ask for them and disseminates them at an international level.
- It allows the partners to overcome their differences in order to achieve a common and shared outcome.

More information about the project is available on its official website at

www.europeanofficial.eu



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