

Call

Validation of a VQTS (Vocational Qualification Transfer System) competence matrix “Professional Care”
(incl. “Nursing” and “Elder Care Nurse”)



For the Erasmus+ project **HCEU “HealthCareEurope: Fostering transparency and recognition of prior learning within geographical mobility of professionals in the health care sector”** we are inviting interested candidates from Denmark and the Netherlands to apply for the **validation of a VQTS (Vocational Qualification Transfer System) competence matrix “Professional Care” which combines the professions of “Nursing” and “Elder care Nurse”**.

HCEU is a three year project lasting from September 2015 to September 2018 aiming at fostering labour market mobility in the health care sector through recognition of foreign qualification. In order to streamline and make recognition processes within health care comparable in and among EU countries and therefore foster cross-border mobility of health care professionals, the HCEU project develops tools and instruments applicable in different national contexts within cross-border recognition processes and based on work practise as basis for comparison. The projects’ major focus is on the professional profiles “nursing” and “elder care nurse.” The HCEU outcomes equip recognition authorities, employers, supporting organisations and migrating health care professionals with valid and helpful tools for recognition processes.

The HCEU products are based on the learning outcome approach and existing European instruments such as ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) and ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) and will use the widely recognised and award winning VQTS approach as common basis for comparison and recognition across borders. The HCEU project utilises the VQTS matrix approach in the context of comparing and recognising health care qualifications obtained within other learning contexts than the national formal qualifications system. The whole set of matrices, tools, instruments, module outlines and guidelines necessary to practically use the VQTS approach within cross-border mobility of health care professionals is applied to the key positions “nursing” and “elder care nurse” and exemplary specialisations. In this way an objective and transferable set of instruments valid all across Europe is prepared independently from a specific (national) formal qualification context.

Project key elements are:

- Competence matrix based on learning outcomes which displays competencies of a specific field (“nursing” and “elder care nurse”)
- Competence profiles formed from individual parts of this competencies matrix
- Organisational profiles for the profession “nursing” and “elder care nurse”
- Web-based tool for the interactive presentation of the matrix and the related HCEU tools

Purpose of validating the VQTS competence matrix “Professional Care”

The main purpose of validating the VQTS competence matrix for professional care will be examining its soundness in other national European contexts. Evaluating practical demands

in the framework of validation and recognition of prior acquired qualifications is another objective.

Thereby, the competence matrix can be established on a broad empirical basis and increases the comparability of qualifications/ certificates in European countries and other parts of the world as well the identification of gaps and additions between the national levels of competencies in the vocational field.

It is expected that the expert is validating the competence matrix on the basis of the work processes relevant in the investigated country and in addition on national qualifications in “nursing” and/or “elder care nurse” in Denmark / the Netherlands.

Description of the task

Validation of the VQTS competence matrix for “Professional Care” (“nursing”/ “elder care nurse”) based on the work performance in the corresponding national context. The result of validation should reflect the similarities and differences of the work processes as well as add the specific core tasks of the country of validation. Moreover, the validation should also disclose semantic differences of words used in the matrix.

The expert will be given access to the HCEU competence matrix “Professional Care” and the identified learning outcomes.

It will be expected that the expert evaluates/ validates:

- Competence areas
- Sub-competence areas
- the steps of competence development
- learning outcomes descriptions

in the national context and on the basis of the respective curricula and work processes. Furthermore the expert is expected to develop an organisational profile for a selected national qualification/ certificate reflecting the usually reached level of competence development by holders of the investigated certificate.

The HCEU consortium is going to support the validation of the matrix and the development of an organisational profile by introducing the VQTS approach via a webinar and providing ongoing support and consultations on the matrix and the learning outcomes approach. Furthermore a methodology will be provided for the validation part as well as for the development of the organisational profile.

Expert’s profile in Qualification in the Health Care Sector

The call is addressed to nurses and teachers with minimum of three years’ experience or experts with equivalent knowledge in the health care sector. The applicant should have a strong background in vocational education and qualification in the health care sector and the work processes in the field of professional care. Moreover, the expert is familiar with the learning outcome approach and demonstrates sufficient relevant and direct expertise in the national qualification system. Prior experience in the field of validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning is an asset. The candidate should also have excellent command of the English language (both verbal and written).

Budget

Our project allows for a maximum contract amount of Euro 5.500 (incl. all related costs, for each country) for validating the matrix in one of the national contexts and developing an organisational profile for a selected qualification/ certificate. However, this tender is transparent, fair and based on principles of equal treatment, which also means candidates are able to propose different financial offers according to their own estimated costs. All candidates are expected to specify at least the following items in their offer: planned working days for (1) validating the competence matrix incl. expert consultations and desk research, (2) development of an organisational profile incl. interviews and consultations with experts and development of a short background paper and report (3) (virtual) meetings with coordination team for the duration of the contract. Furthermore, candidates are requested to specify her/his VAT status. The contract will be awarded to the bid offering best value for money (best-price-quality ratio).

Timeline

Proposals incl. a concept note (max. 3 pages) and budget should be sent before **15 September 2017** by e-mail to Katja Kalusch, DEKRA Akademie GmbH Stuttgart, Deutschland (katja.kalusch@dekra.com). The actual implementation of this contract is expected to take place between September and December 2018.

For further information you may also contact Ms Katja Kalusch. Further information on the HCEU project: <http://project-hceu.eu/>

Further information on the approaches used in the project:

VQTS: <http://www.vocationalqualification.net/>

ECVET: https://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/ecvet_en

ESCO: <https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/home?resetLanguage=true&newLanguage=en>