



Erasmus+ Master 4.0: Improving master craftsman exams

We would like to present you the first newsletter of the Master 4.0 project: Improving master craftsman exams, in which you can find general information about project goals, project activities, partners and information from the first meeting of partners held in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



About the project

The Master 4.0 project introduces a completely new approach in the preparation and implementation of the master craftsman exam. The aim of the project is to improve the preparation and implementation of the master craftsman exam by improving exams and programs and introducing an online platform for the preparation and implementation of master craftsman exams.

The coordinator of the project is the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts, which implements the project with partners from Croatia (Algebra University College), Slovenia (Slovenian Chamber of Crafts), North Macedonia (Craft Chamber of Skopje, Association Happy Life) and Montenegro (Craft-Entrepreneurial Chamber of Montenegro).

Master craftsman titles are respected and recognized in the European Union as well as in the partner countries in the project: Croatia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro. Master craftsman exams make it possible to advance in the profession, open a business, take apprentices on an apprenticeship. Also, the acquisition of a master craftsman title represents an advantage over the competition since the master craftsman vocation emphasizes the excellence and quality of products and service.

Croatia and Slovenia have years of experience conducting master craftsman exams, while North Macedonia and Montenegro are just moving in that direction. In all countries, the master craftsman exam has a similar structure, and consists of 4 parts: the practical part, the professional-theoretical part, the part regarding the economy and business, and the pedagogical part.

Given the mentioned similarities in the implementation of the master craftsman exam, the partners of this project will work together to improve the quality of the master craftsman exam in partner countries.

The project duration is 28 months, and the implementation began on 1 September 2019. The total grant amounts to EUR 215,870.00.

What are we going to do with the project?

- *the quality of the master craftsman exam will be improved by improving programmes and questions and aligning with modern trends and technologies*
- *through an open part of the online platform, key information about the master craftsman exam will become easily accessible to the public, especially interested candidates*
- *organisations carrying out continuous vocational education will be educated in the field of programming questions and programs for master craftsman exams, as well as for conducting master craftsman exams through an online platform, which will increase the quality, productivity, and innovation in providing services to their users*
- *improving master craftsman exams will further promote adult education and lifelong learning.*

Project Activities

A comparison of exam questions and programs for master craftsman exams (2019-2020)

1. **Development of a methodological framework with guidelines for the preparation of exam questions for the master craftsman exam**
2. **Preparation of exam questions and programs for master craftsman exams**
 - Croatian- exam questions for the professional-theoretical part of the exam for the titles hairdresser, car repairer and electrical installer
 - Slovenia- exam questions for the professional-theoretical part of the exam for the titles carpenter, bricklayer, and electrician
 - North Macedonia- exam questions for the professional-theoretical part of the exam for the title of beautician, exam program for the professions of auto mechanic and baker
 - Montenegro- exam questions for the professional-theoretical part of the exam for the title of tailor of high fashion, exam program and exam questions for the professional-theoretical part of the exam for the title of photographer

Development of an online platform for preparing and taking a master craftsman exam (2020-2021)

1. **Designing and creating an online platform**
 - 3 parts of the platform- open part, exam preparation part and exam part
2. Preparation of manuals for administrative use of the platform and education for the use of the platform for institutions conducting master craftsman exams
3. **Localization of the platform in partner languages, input of questions and preparations for piloting**
4. **Piloting an online platform**
 - Report on piloting carried out as a starting point for further use and improvement of the online platform



First meeting of project partners held

The first meeting of the partners of the Master 4.0 project was held 10 and 11 October 2019 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The partners discussed the implementation of project activities, project management and possible events that could promote the project.



Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts (HOK), Republic of Croatia (coordinator)

The Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts (HOK) is an independent professional business organization of craftsmen that was founded to promote and represent the common interests of craftsmanship. Its members are craftsmen who perform crafts on the territory of the Republic of Croatia. Membership is mandatory. The Chamber performs the following roles: promoting craftsmen, representing the interests of craftsmen before state institutions and in creating economic policies, giving opinions and proposals to state institutions when adopting legal provisions concerning crafts, assisting craftsmen in the establishment and running of crafts, and performing other tasks prescribed by law and legal acts of the Chamber. Within the tasks prescribed by the Crafts Act, the Chamber has public authorities in the field of initial and lifelong vocational education and training.

Web: www.hok.hr



Craft Chamber of Slovenia (OZS), Republic of Slovenia (partner)

The Craft Chamber of Slovenia (OZS) is an umbrella organization consisting of a system of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, together with 62 regional chambers of trades and crafts. OZS represents the interests of members before the Government and cooperates with ministries and the National Assembly in shaping economic policy and creating the best possible legislation regulating crafts, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. It informs its members through the official journal, connects through sections, advises through counseling, educates and exercises public authority in the field of vocational education and training. As a social partner and as one of the representative employers' organisations, the Chamber oversees places for the practical part of initial VET and training and the training provided by employers who support and follow the process of the practical part of VET, in cooperation with schools, organises the VET control and final exam. The Chamber, as a social partner, also proposes occupational standards as the basis for VET programmes in accordance with the National Law on Professional Qualifications and the Law on Vocational Training and Education.

Web: www.ozs.si



Skopje Chamber of Crafts, Republic of North Macedonia (partner)

The Skopje Chamber of Trades and Crafts is an independent, non-profit professional business association of craftsmen, which advocates creating favorable conditions and climate for the development and promotion of craftsmanship, improving product quality and

services by improving human resources, conducting trainings, presentations, vocational training of craftsmen and improving vocational education.

Its members are craftsmen who practice in the Skopje area. Membership is mandatory. The Skopje Chamber of Trades has the public authority to keep a register of trades and performs registrations, changes and termination of trades. Within the chamber operates the Center for Adult Education, which provides adult training through on-the-job training, according to programs approved by the ministry responsible for education.

The Skopje Chamber of Trades and Crafts represents the interests of craftsmen before the relevant institutions, makes proposals to improve legislation, lobbies for favourable conditions and climate for the development of crafts and works to improve the quality and image of vocational education and training.

Web: www.zkomora.com.mk



Sreken Život-Tetovo Association, Republic of North Macedonia (partner)

The Association Sreken Život-Tetovo is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental, civic association, formed by free association of citizens in order to realize, protect and harmonize their interests and beliefs for the promotion of civil society and local communities, as well as to carry out activities to promote moral values, strengthen interethnic relations and economic development on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia. It was founded in December 2001. In 2012, the association opened a branch - Sreken Život Skopje Branch - Sopište, Skopje. The association is a member of the networks: Women's Citizens' Initiative ANTIKO - Skopje and the ES Network of Young Entrepreneurs Skopje. The main areas of activity of the association are education, human rights, multiethnic dialogue and civil society (networking). Since its inception, the Association has been working on improving young people's skills and preparing young people for the labour market, organizing and implementing seminars and workshops for teachers and students, developing educational programs, organizing study trips and other activities in the field of education. In the last 7 years, the association has been developing education programs for teachers working in a multicultural environment.

Web: <https://srekenzivot.wixsite.com/srekenzivot>



NGO Craft-Entrepreneurial Chamber of Montenegro (ZanaPredaK)

The mission of the umbrella organization of 18 craft associations in Montenegro is to represent the economic-political, professional and economic interests of independent artisans and craft companies.

This is especially true of strengthening the image of the craft, improving the economic and social position of the secondary-class entrepreneurial and social partnership in vocational education and training. The vision of ZanaPredka is to develop the competitiveness of the craft, stand in front of and behind the economy, speak with one voice in front of politics, economy and society and be a competent interlocutor for institutions for all issues and measures of importance for craftsmanship. It was founded in 2007 with the project support

of the Koblenz Craft Chamber (Germany). It provides services to members on the principle of self-help assistance, advocates dual education and qualifies masters. It is financed from voluntary membership fees, services and projects.

Web: www.zanapredak.jimdofree.com



Algebra College (VUA), Republic of Croatia (partner)

Algebra University College is part of the largest private educational organization in the Republic of Croatia and the region, present in more than 20 cities across Croatia. It enrolls over 400 new students per year and is located in Zagreb. It currently conducts 10 accredited higher education study programmes/majors. Study programmes in higher education are accredited by the Ministry of Science and Education and thus recognized within the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) through its connection with the Croatian Qualifications Framework (HKO). In addition to the academic focus (focus on the quality of teaching), it is also dedicated to applied research. Algebra LAB conducts research, services and solutions in the fields of data science. Data Science), information technology applications in education, including digital educational content, distance learning systems and knowledge assessment systems, labour market development research and education policies. Algebra Group is built on the synergy of numerous elements that are aimed at the creation, application and dissemination of knowledge. In this system, Algebra University College is one of the basic generators of knowledge, but also an important part of the subsystem for its dissemination. Algebra's business strategy is: *Creating, sharing and using applicable knowledge of excellent quality.*

Web: <https://www.algebra.hr/visoko-uciliste/>



Ju Craft Chamber of Montenegro (ZaKom), Associate Partner in the Project

The Craft Chamber of Montenegro is a professional, independent and public-legal organization of artisans, tasked with protecting and improving crafts and representing the common interests of artisans in Montenegro.

It was founded in 2011 under the Crafts Act ("Fig. List CG" 54/2009), which was adopted by a consolidated appearance of the middle-aged economy. ZaKom maintains the Register of Artisans as a public authorization and contains applications of trades through local secretaries for the economy. Due to optional membership and the same management, the affairs of the public institution of the Chamber of Crafts of Montenegro are run by the NGO Craft Chamber of Montenegro.

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