

EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAINSAW OPERATORS CERTIFICATION



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

Project Rationale

- The rationale behind this project will be the development of a common training standard and examination for chainsaw users. Accidents, fatalities and associated economic & personal costs related to chainsaw use are too high and can be significantly reduced via the provision of a common European training and examination standard which is, updated on a regular basis. In the UK the odds of someone in forestry and arboriculture sustaining a major or fatal injury in any one year are estimated to be worse than 1 in 120. Other UK statistics include during 2003/04 five people were killed while undertaking tree work and over a ten-year period (94-04) 49 people have been killed in incidents involving tree work and 12% of the deaths in agriculture are a result of tree-work activities (Source: HSE's Fatal injuries in farming, forestry and horticulture 2003/04.). The 2007/2008 period resulted in another 5 deaths related to the use of chainsaws.

Project Rationale

- This project can be developed after analysis and comparison (mapping exercises) of training programmes in partner countries where national training standards do not exist (e.g. Spain, Denmark, Holland & Belgium). In the UK & Germany national chainsaw standards do exist and therefore can be transferred and adapted to suit the needs of the other partners.
- Also, an independent examination of competence does not exist with the partners but does within the UK. Quality national training standards and a competence assessment will lead to reduced accidents and fatalities of chainsaw operators throughout Europe as this information is transferred between countries. A better vocational skills base will add value to the economy of the EU.

Project Rationale

- The project fits the TOI measure as knowledge, skills & competencies will be transferred between partners. With this project we would like to start up the programme in 4 countries as to implement it later on in other European countries. 10 other countries have already shown their interest to participate in the certification system once it is set up.
- Target groups the project will impact upon are foresters, arborists, landscapers & other land-based workers but also other craft workers (eg. construction workers) that use chainsaws within their employment.

Project Workplan

- 1: Undertake research in all the partners' countries to make an inventory of the national occupational standards (NOS) regarding the safe use of chainsaws. Based on this inventory a draft for **European chainsaw competence standards (ECS)** will be made. The draft will be sent to the different partners to map their NOS against this draft. NPTC will then analyse the results to make a common draft proposal of competences at different levels. All partners can contribute to the contents and specifications of this document and the interim version has to be agreed upon.

Project Workplan

- 2: To test the draft version of phase 1 of ECS levels a trial is necessary. Therefore trainers of all partners' countries will get the opportunity to get together, and discuss on how to design or adapt existing national training schemes and examination methods to implement the new standards. It is possible that the interim version still needs adaptations to make it more feasible in practice. Together with the trainers there will be NPTC assessors from A1 Arborists who'll undertake mock examinations to make the link with examination and certification concrete possibilities at this stage. The end results will be the final reviewed version of European operational draft ECS and a draft for an examination methodology leading to a **European Chainsaw Certificate (ECC)**.

Project Workplan

- 3: Because the involvement and support of all target groups and the forestry entrepreneur sector is important for this project to be successful and sustainable, we will organise and present the reviewed version of European ECS to the stakeholders. The consultation of these stakeholders will enable us to include a different point of view in the third phase of the project. ENFE is the most suitable organisation to lead this WP as they are the European organisation of forestry entrepreneurs and associated networks. In every country meetings with the forestry sector will be organised to consult, review and improve the framework. This action is also a first step in the dissemination process to promote the chainsaw certificate towards third parties. The results of the industry review will be put in a report and necessary changes will be made to the draft version.

Project Workplan

- 4: Based on the the adapted draft version of phase 3 and the draft for examination methodology of phase 2 test runs will be implementation in partners training centres. During these pilots we will test the European competence examination and procedures to ensure the suitability and effectiveness of the certification process. The quality assurance (QA) will be an important topic from the start of the project, but in this stage the quality of the certification process framework that was designed by the leaders of WP6 (QA) will already be tested and improved. The end results will be the final version of European ECC and is a document with auditing and examination procedures.

Project Workplan

- 5: The QA process will start when the first draft is available and will not only focus on the actual competences and levels, but will also act on the overall process of certification procedures, future administration and logistics, sustainability, etc. In this WP also the development of a database of exam candidates and assessors is included. Their main final output will be a certification framework that can be made operational after the standard setting in Spain has been approved. This will be through the development of a **European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council (EFESC)**.

Project Workplan

- 6: During the dissemination and valorisation phase, the partnership will assure that the results are available for all partners and that the end results are communicated and promoted towards all stakeholders. The main medium will be via the internet (website) and partnership network.

Core Project Partners

Organisation	Role	Contact	Country
A1 ARBORISTS	Project Manager	Billy Robb Kristyna Dvorackova Boel Hammarstrand	UK
INVERDE	Co-Manager	Alexandra Mannaert Tom Embo Kris Hofkens Filip Debleeckere	BELGIUM
NPTC/CITY&GUILDS	Partner	Steve Hewitt	UK
IPC	Partner	Roland Tromp Willem Van Delft Peter Bongen	HOLLAND
SKOVSKOLEN	Partner	Ib H Christensen Bo Brockmann	DENMARK
KWF	Partner	Joachim Morat	GERMANY
CTFC	Partner	Rosa Ricart Margineda Maria Claret Pintó	SPAIN
ENFE	Partner	Edgar Kastenholz	GERMANY

Project Work Packages

WP	Name	Leader	Supporting partners
WP1	Management	A1 ARBORISTS	INVERDE
WP2	Mapping	NPTC	
WP3	Standard setting	A1 ARBORISTS; IPC	CTFC
WP4	Consultation industry	ENFE	
WP5	Test runs	A1 ARBORISTS; CTFC	
WP6	QA	KWF	A1 ARBORISTS; SKOVSKOLEN
WP7	Dissemination/exploitation	INVERDE	A1 ARBORISTS; ENFE