

## 2017-1-AT01-KA202-035095

EUROPA-MEISTER – Towards a European quality label for the craft  
Contribution to the Online Final Conference - Multiplier-Event 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

*Opening of the conference from 10:00 to 10:15 am*

Ladies and gentlemen of the European Parliament and European Commission, President of SMEunited and representative of the EU Economic and Social Committee

Dear guests and interested participants of today's event!

Dear project partners!

I would like to address my greetings to all of you.

I am extremely pleased that this great day for our joint project has come. We have been working for almost three years on our project 'EUROPA-MEISTER for the Craft', which we developed within the Erasmus plus programme funded by the European Union.

Today's project event is a milestone for our work. It serves as a presentation of our project in an appropriate framework and as an important dissemination occasion for all project partners among different European countries.

Our event today was originally planned as a large physical gathering of participants in Brussels. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the activities of our project have been significantly influenced. Thus, the event has been rescheduled in a different way as a video conference by our project partner UNIEP with a lot of creativity and commitment. With this online event we will try to bring you in the same atmosphere of a normal face to face conference, giving you the same interesting information with the participation of external speakers within the first session and project partners in the second one.

First of all, I would like to give our guests some basic information about the project. A brief overview of the most important data of our project should provide an understanding of the single contents and steps of our Erasmus plus project.

Our ambitious Erasmus plus - KA2 Strategic Partnership project is titled: "EUROPA-MEISTER - Towards a European quality seal for the craft sector"

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- Project start: October 2017
- Project end: August 2020
- Partners:

1. Project coordinator and project participant from Austria  
**HTL Baden, Painting School Leesdorf** and it's a Non-profit association for the craft of painting

2. Project partners from Germany  
**SBG Dresden** - Saxon Educational Society for Environmental Protection and Chemical Professions Dresden

3. Project partner from Luxembourg  
**UNIEP** - International Union of Painting contractors

4. Project partners from Norway  
**NTI-MMM** Multilateral Monitoring and Management

5. Project partners from Slovenia  
**O-PZS** Craft-BUSINESS Association OF Slovenia

6. Project partners from Belgium  
**Confederation Construction – Finishing**

7. Project partners from Austria  
**Lower Austrian Land Guild of Painters and Decorators**

- What is the basic idea of the project?

A European champions certificate for the craft, which proves the competences and skills of the master of craftmanships in painting and coating technology at level 6 in the European quality framework with a certification as a seal of approval.

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The European Master Letter for the Painting Trade will be awarded by the European umbrella organisation UNIEP and thus established as a seal of quality.

- What were the sub-objectives and stages to achieve the goals in our project?

Five “Intellectual Outputs” so-called (IO's) have been defined:

### 1. IO1

Description of a competence profile for the painting trade at level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF 6). In the form of a base matrix.

### 2. IO2

Creation of a multilingual competence profile in the Skillsbank database in accordance with ECVET and EQF criteria.

### 3. IO3

Description of procedures or guidelines for the cooperation of European Master schools. In other words, a network for the craft of painting in order to enable master students from European countries to acquire the European Master's Letter.

### 4. IO4

Development of an e-learning course system and supported by a test run (“EUROPA- WALZ” with selected master students).

### 5. IO5

Achievement of objectives with the EUROPEAN MEISTERBRIEF, which is awarded and recognized by UNIEP.

IO5 creates a document for the recording and presentation of requirements, facilities and procedures with appropriate regulations for the sustainable work of UNIEP in the context of the award of the European Champion.

- What are the next goals of our work?

It is important to complete our e-learning course system first and to concentrate the many technical content areas developing it as a basic instrument for further work, after the official end of the project, for UNIEP and its award of the European Champion.

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The Language gap between the partners has been a big challenge within the project. Mobility and the linguistic competence of the young European masters will be important prerequisites for future developments.

There are still many ways to support the path to the EUROPA-MEISTER of the craft in its training precursors. That is why another major Erasmus+ project has already been launched. Under the Erasmus+ Sector Skills Alliances projects, the PaintingSkillsAcademy will be carried out in the next few years.

The project consortium of our project looks with great expectation towards the first certifications, which will guarantee the project's sustainability.

- What assessments can be formulated at this time?

For the painters' trade, the certification of the European Master of Crafts represents a major step into the future of the traditional profession.

For the young, EUROPA-MEISTER is a visible confirmation of the high competence they achieved during their professional activities.

From a European perspective, this Erasmus project shows that the craft sector knows no borders and that the common traits and good practices can only be gathered and expressed at European level.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will receive more information about our project during today's event.

In any case, it is important for us to point out with this event the importance of a recognised European master's training at level 6 of the EQF.

Perhaps this Erasmus+ project will also set an example for other master training courses in Europe for other sectors, which I would be very pleased to see.

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As project coordinator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all participating partners for their intensive work and commitment to the project work so far, and I hope that together we will also successfully complete the latest final steps of our project and thus ensure its desired sustainability.

Thank you for your attention!

Baden, 9 July 2020 Michael Wagner