

## Output Factsheet

**Output title:**

**Organisational CB: Transnational implementation method**

**Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)**

Transnational implementation method provides a detailed roadmap for approval of training programmes and aims to offer guidance for the implementation at transnational level of the training programmes established based on the provisions of EU Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and on the Standards of competence for inland navigation personnel drafted and adopted by CESNI. The newly adopted EU Directive 2017/2397 therefore proposes to extend the scope of the recognition of professional qualifications beyond the level of Boatmasters to all crew members involved in the operation of vessel and to base the recognition of qualifications on the competences and to balance the recognition of qualifications with safeguard introducing standards as regarding the assessment of competence, **approval of training programmes** and monitoring and evaluation of certification and training.

**Objectives:**

The main objectives of the transnational implementation method:

- providing an useful tool for design/revision and approval of training programmes – mandatory stage for the implementation of the EU Directive provisions in the education and training system in each partner country;
- transferring the best practices and expertise of CER to the responsible partners who will be involved in the updating or changing of the education & training system in their countries according to the provisions of the EU Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation.

**Methodology:**

The transnational implementation method was drafted based on the provisions of **Art. 19 of EU Directive 2017/2397** on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation, in which it is stipulated, among others, that Member States shall ensure that the training programmes are approved by the designated national competent authority only if:

- the training objectives, learning content, methods, media of delivery, procedures, including the use of simulators, where applicable, and course materials are properly documented and allow applicants to achieve the standards of competence;
- the programmes for the assessment of the relevant competences are conducted by qualified persons who have in-depth knowledge of the training programme;
- an examination to verify compliance with the standards of competence is carried out by qualified examiners.

The **minimum criteria for approval of training programmes** mentioned in the output document, impose compliance with at least the following:

- specific national legislation;

- the provider has to be constituted as legal person and to be authorized as an education and/or training institute;
- to be certified in the field of quality management system;
- to have the necessary human resources;
- to have the required material support

Concepts for the structure and the content of the training programme curricula and for the method to organize and carry out on the training programmes based on the CER expertise in this field have been also included.

As regarding the necessary human resources, the document highlighted the importance and the necessity for the professional qualification of the staff involved in such training activities.

#### **Next steps:**

The responsible partners from each country of the project consortium have acquired the minimum information and concept models for the preparation of the new education and training programmes in order to be approved by the designated national authority, the most important step in the implementation process of the EU Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualification in inland navigation into the existing education and training system of crew members.

#### **Conclusions:**

All the responsible partners from Danube Region received the necessary information and procedures regarding the implementation of the provisions of EU Directive 2017/2397 into the education and training system and were made aware on the importance of harmonisation of professional qualification of inland navigation personnel at European level which will conduct to increased mobility of workforce of this sector.

#### **Contribution to the project and Programme objectives (max. 1500 characters)**

One of Danube SKILLS's foremost objectives is to increase the capacity of education and training institutions in the Danube Region by offering them both the tools and a roadmap for the implementation of the EU Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation into existing education and training systems in the Danube riparian countries.

A typical capacity building process covers the development of a conceptual framework, the establishment of an organizational attitude, the development of a vision and strategy, the development of an organizational structure for being prepared for the implementation process of the EU Directive 2017/2397 provisions into the existing education and training system.

Danube SKILLS supports the education and training institutions from the Danube riparian countries providing the implementation method concept and a roadmap for the approval process of the training programmes based on CER expertise and according to the legal provisions adopted by the European Commission - EU Directive 2017/2397 and the Standards of competences drafted and adopted by CESNI. The close cooperation of the responsible partners with the policy decision makers and relevant stakeholders are essential to accomplish this important stage of reforming the education and training system based on the professional competence standards.

Danube SKILLS addresses these issues following the basic principle of its actions by providing, first, the implementation method concept to the responsible partners which will implement in their future actions for the preparation the new education and training programmes and after they become aware of this necessary step to bestow this information to the external

stakeholders involved in education, training and certification of inland navigation personnel during the consultation meetings, round table discussions etc. so as to find out the market demands for qualified crewmembers.

The European legal framework on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and the Standards of competences for crewmembers at operational and management level drafted by CESNI were permanently brought to the attention of the project partners as well as the relevant policy decision makers and key stakeholders through the communication and dissemination activities of Danube SKILLS project in order to make them aware of the importance of harmonisation and standardisation of professional qualifications of crewmembers at EU level. In other words, partners received an important guidance for the implementation process through which they got familiar with the most important stages of their activity for development of competence-based education and training programmes based on the standards of competences elaborated by CESNI and accompanying the EU Directive and on the teaching methods.

#### **Contribution to EUSDR actions and/or targets (max. 1500 characters)**

Fragmented legal framework governing skills and qualifications in the Danube inland transport is one of the obstacles identified by Danube SKILLS partners as hindering recognition of qualifications and mobility of work force.

The transnational implementation method contributes to EUSDR PA1A 'To improve mobility and multimodality/ inland waterways', target „Solve the shortage of qualified personnel and harmonise education standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures”, action „To invest in education & jobs in the Danube navigation sector” given that:

- it sets up cooperation patterns between project partners which will be further used during project lifetime so as to foster capacity building of responsible authorities and administrations in the adoption of the new EU regulations in their countries and thus reach the primary objectives of the EU Directive and EUSDR PA1A: increased mobility of IWT work force.
- It paves the way for a future integrated transnational approach for development and delivery of competence-based courses meeting the requirements of the EU Directive 2017/2397, thus supporting EUSDR PA1A action „To invest in education & jobs in the Danube navigation sector”

#### **Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)**

N/A

#### **Integration and use of the output by the target group (max. 2000 characters)**

The first target group which will use the Transnational implementation method consists of the project partners themselves based on the underlying principle of the project that capacity building should first start within the consortium, which received important guidelines for the implementation stage of the EU Directive into the existing education and training system.

Once the partners become aware of the necessary stages and resources for the implementation of the EU Directive in their institutions they will be capable to develop competence-based education and training programmes based on the standards of competences and transfer their new competences on teaching methods to the inland navigation personnel which are the beneficiary of these new education and training programmes, contributing to the capacity building of the entire education and training system in the Danube region.

Extended target group will thus include representatives of the entire education and training system in the Danube region, who will be able to use this implementation method for their activities regarding organisation of the new education and training programmes in their own vocational schools or training centres.

In addition to this, the target group encompasses a far larger area due to the extensive promotion of the project outputs on project website, on InfoDanube website, on the partners' websites and dissemination to all EDINNA members (belonging to countries within and outside the Danube region). Transnational implementation method output will be used as a good practice example in the elaboration of teaching methods for the education and training courses addressing the inland navigation personnel.

#### **Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)**

The project partners, the associated strategic partners and also the most relevant policy decision makers involved or which will be involved in the approval of training programmes (The Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine, the Danube Commission, Edinna, national authorities from the partners' countries, education and training institutions outside of the project consortium etc.) have been consulted during the development of this output.

Experience gained by partners in the development of education and training programmes and on teaching methods will be capitalized during the deployment of the pilot actions addressing inland navigation personnel at management and operational level to the organized by their institutions in all project countries. Dissemination to EDINNA members ensures its transferability beyond the Danube region, to EDINNA members from France, the Netherlands, Belgium who will use this transnational implementation method concept as a best practice example.

#### **Durability (max. 1500 characters)**

The entire concept of the transnational implementation method has been successfully tested inside CER, institution with an experience of over 40 years in the field of development of training programmes, teaching methods and in the preparation all the documents needed for approval of training programmes by the Romanian Naval Authority. The mandatory training courses provided by CER are approved according the existing national legislation in this field, namely: Ministry of Transport Order no. 1354 / 19 December 2007 regarding the minimum criteria needed to be fulfilled by the providers of education, vocational training or professional development training, in order to organize and proceed to authorized training classes for obtaining and extending the validity of licenses and certificates of competency for seafarers.

The content of the output was also validated during its preparation by feedback received from project partners whose inputs were duly incorporated and also by feedback received from EDINNA members (outside of Danube countries). The final version of this output thus offers



essential guidance to all EDINNA members throughout the Danube region and beyond in their activities regarding approval of their education and training programmes according to the provisions of the EU Directive 2017/2397..

This output will be distributed care of the project communication and dissemination activities to all education and training institutions interested in starting reforming their education and training system and needing advice in this important process.

The transnational and implementation method stands as a viable tool which serves as starting point for the development and delivery of competence-based training programmes, meeting the provisions of the new EU Directive 2017/2397 and thus ensuring the transnational approach for fostering institutional capacity building of the education and training system so as to secure efficient and timely adoption of the new common standards and regulations in the Danube region countries.

**Synergies with other projects/ initiatives and / or alignment with current EU policies/ directives/ regulations, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)**

The transnational implementation method contributes to EUSDR PA1A 'To improve mobility and multimodality/ inland waterways', target „Solve the shortage of qualified personnel and harmonise education standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures”, action „To invest in education & jobs in the Danube navigation sector”.

The transnational implementation method also supports the implementation of the EU Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation, prepared under the Commission's policy framework for promoting IWT, NAIADES II and entailing review of the framework on the harmonisation and modernisation of professional qualifications in the sector.

This output has been prepared in closed cooperation with several Associated Strategic Partners members of CESNI, national authorities, EDINNA members, whose task is to review the education and training system of professional qualification of crewmembers in the inland waterway sector.

**Output integration in the current political/ economic/ social/ technological/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework (max. 2000 characters)**

Future development of Danube navigation and inland waterway transport sector as a whole is hampered by difficulties in terms of labour mobility, manpower shortage and skills mismatches. Despite decade-long efforts, current organizational structure and legal framework governing professional qualifications still prevent free movement and integration of Danube inland navigation personnel in the EU wide labour market and call for a modern and flexible regulatory instrument for training and certification.

These obstacles are eliminated by the EU Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and repealing Council Directive 96/50/EC and Council Directive 91/672/EEC, approved by the European Parliament in November 2017 and published in the Official Journal of the EU in December 2017 and coming into force in January 2018.

The objective of this initiative, built upon over 19 years of experience with implementation of Directives 96/50/EC and 91/672/EEC, which are however limited to the mutual recognition of boatmasters operating on EU inland waterways other than the Rhine river, is to facilitate labour mobility in the inland waterway transport sector by ensuring that skilled workers' qualifications are recognised throughout the Union.

The EU Directive 2017/2397 extends the scope of recognition of professional qualifications beyond the level of boatmasters to all crew members involved in the operation of vessels, the Rhine river included and bases the recognition of the professional qualifications on the competences that are needed for the operation of vessels, thus replacing a complex set of regional requirements with multilateral and bilateral agreements by a simpler and, more importantly, EU-wide framework for certification and mutual recognition.

Supply of a set of principles and guidelines for approval of the training programmes by the Transnational Implementation Method offers a consistent support to future implementation of above EU Directive 2017/2397 in all Danube Region countries.