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WINEVET - European cooperation among VET providers, agricultural enterprises, sectoral/professional organisations, and relevant qualification authorities, to increase employability of youths and highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce, by developing the joint VET qualification “Winemaker Specialist”

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Work Package 7 - Supporting endorsement and integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification “Winemaker Specialist” into involved national and regional qualification frameworks

Deliverable 13

Report on the activities for supporting endorsement and integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification “Winemaker Specialist” into involved national and regional qualification frameworks

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Premise: main features of Work Package 7 and related Deliverable 14

The self-evident title of the Work Package 7 "Supporting endorsement and integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification Winemaker Specialist into involved national and regional qualification frameworks", it clearly introduces to the content of this sixth implementation step of the WINEVET project, following the preparatory researches about professional and learning field in wine production segment of agricultural sector in Macedonian NQF and in Umbrian RQF, and on relevant experiences and transferable good practices to support transnational joint VET qualifications based on ECVET (carried out within the Work Package 2), the design of the qualification profile of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" (realised within the Work Package 3), the definition and formalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding - MoU ECVET establishing the transnational qualification profile for the post-secondary Umbrian-Macedonian joint VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" and the cooperation structure to ensure transparency, comparability, quality, and mutual recognition of the qualification (carried out within the Work Package 4), the design of the joint curriculum complementing the transnational qualification profile (achieved within the Work Package 5), as well as the definition of the joint guideline for learning outcomes assessment complementing the transnational qualification profile and curriculum (realised within the Work Package 6).

More in particular, in the context of the main objective of the project WINEVET (to prepare and set up the higher-level joint Umbrian-Macedonian VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist"), the Work Package 7 includes the activities aimed to support the endorsement and effective integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" into involved national and regional qualification frameworks, for ensuring that project deliverables (in particular: the transnational qualification profile and the cooperation structure to ensure transparency, comparability, appropriate quality assurance systems and mutual recognition of the qualification, both established by MoU ECVET; and the joint training and assessment standards complementing the qualification profile) will be pursued after EU funding has ended. In effect, since implementation activities of the project are carried out in the framework of ECVET process activation, the effective integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" into involved national and regional qualification frameworks, it depends mainly on the actual implementation and application into involved national and regional VET systems of the transnational agreement establishing the joint qualification profile and cooperation structure. For this reason, the activities of the Work Package 7 focused on supporting both the operation and performance of the joint governance mechanisms (e.g.: permanent joint governance body and periodical meetings, for constant dialogue and administrative co-operation), and in particular the fulfilments towards the systematic and targeted commitments (i.e. about the formal transposition of the joint professional, training and assessment standards into each of the involved national or regional qualification frameworks, and about effective making use of the joint standards, particularly by VET providers) established within the MoU ECVET by the signatories partners and other relevant interested organisations.

Starting from the sixth Consortium meeting of the WINEVET project (9 July 2020 realised via Zoom), the partnership - despite the difficulties linked to health situation due to the spread of Covid-19 - shared the set-up and the development of the activities aimed to support the endorsement and effective integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" into involved national and regional qualification frameworks, collaborating at transnational level also through Skype meetings, under the management, coordination and scientific guidance of the applicant.

The present report (Deliverable 14, final release on the activities and results of the Work Package 7), defined with the contribution of each partner, was assembled by the applicant in an integrated draft, discussed and validated by all the partners during the seventh and final Consortium meeting (22 December 2020 realised via Zoom), and then made accessible:

- in the working area open to key actors and users involved in project activities, and in the public open area of the project website (www.winevet.eu), with interactive media and web 2.0, as well as social media and mobiles applications;
- as information package, i.e. synthetic version for dissemination, on paper and USB key (Info-Pack 6 - Umbrian and Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification Winemaker Specialist: the endorsement and integration into involved national and regional qualification frameworks": cfr. work package 9), addressed to people attending to the final transnational multiplier event held in Umbria.

This Deliverable 14, self-evidently titled "Report on the activities for supporting endorsement and integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" into involved national and regional qualification frameworks", it provides a complete overview on results of the implementation activities realised within the Work Package 7 of the WINEVET project, both in Italy and in the Republic of North Macedonia. The integral version of the product is published in English, while the synthetic version for dissemination (Info-pack 6) is published in the other languages of the partnership (Italian, and Macedonian).

The endorsement and integration of Umbrian-Macedonian VET qualification “Winemaker Specialist” into Italian national and Umbrian regional qualification frameworks

As Cedefop reported in 2018 (“Italy - European inventory on NQF 2018”), the reforms carried out in Italy since 2003 across education and training (upper secondary general education, VET and higher education), – motivated by a need to bridge education and labour market needs – anticipated the principles of a learning-outcomes-based NQF. Given the complex model of governance in the country and the fragmentation of the education and training system ⁽¹⁾, one of the challenges has been to achieve effective inter-regional coordination to encourage recognition of the regional qualification systems and inter-regional mobility.

Initial EQF referencing was carried out in Italy between 2009 and 2012 linking national formal qualifications, as well as those awarded by regions within the framework of the State-Regions agreement, directly to the eight EQF levels. The first Italian referencing report was adopted in December 2012 and presented to the EQF advisory group in May 2013 (Italian technical working group, 2012).

Following the first referencing process (2012), a national strategy on lifelong learning was defined, which led to the adoption of Law No 92/2012 on labour market reform ⁽²⁾ and Legislative Decree No 13/2013 ⁽³⁾; this established a national system for certification of competences and a national repository of education, training and vocational qualifications awarded at national and regional levels and described in terms of learning outcomes. To enable the setting up of the national repository, stakeholder agreement was reached in 2015 on an operational common framework for national recognition of regional qualifications and related skills – the national framework of regional qualifications – followed by an inter-ministerial decree ⁽⁴⁾.

These developments were also preconditions for, and served as steps towards, putting in place a comprehensive NQF through dialogue with all national stakeholders. The Italian NQF was adopted through an inter-ministerial decree in January 2018 ⁽⁵⁾. It is structured on eight levels described in learning outcomes in the three domains of the EQF (knowledge, skills, and responsibility and autonomy). Sub-descriptors have also been developed by extending the EQF level descriptors to cover all qualifications available nationally. The framework covers qualifications from general education, higher education and VET qualifications administered at regional level. Professional and private qualifications are to be included in the future.

(1) There are 20 regions in Italy, with 21 regional qualification frameworks since also the two Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano and Trento have constitutional regional relevance. With the modification of the V Title of the Constitution in 2001, the regions increased their competence in education, maintained their competence in vocational training field and in the definition of professional profiles and qualifications. As a result, there is a greater need for coordination between regions.

(2) Italian Government (2012). Law No 92/2012 on labour market reform. Gazzetta Ufficiale, Serie generale, No 153, 3.7.2012. <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/gu/2012/07/03/153/so/136/sg/pdf>

(3) Italian Government (2013). Legislative Decree No 13/2013 on the definition of general rules and basic level of performance for the identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning and minimum service standards of the national system of competences certification. Gazzetta Ufficiale, Serie generale, No 13, 15.2.2013. http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2013/02/15/13G00043/sg;jsessionid=QtVQDnVhW+1EjOvz718GA__ntc-as1-guri2b

(4) Italian Government (2015a). Decree of 30 June 2015 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Ministry of Education, University and Research on an operational common framework for national recognition of regional qualifications and related skills. Gazzetta Ufficiale, Serie generale, No 166, 20.7.2015. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2015/Decreto-Interministeriale-30-giugno-2015.pdf>

(5) Italian Government (2018). Inter-ministerial decree of 8 January 2018 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and of the Ministry of Education, University and Research on the establishment of the national qualifications framework. Gazzetta Ufficiale, Serie generale, No 20, 25.1.2018. <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2018/01/25/18A00411/sg>

Then, in this national context, each Italian region is competent to establish the qualification, training and certification standards applied in the regional territory, within the essential standards established at national level.

Umbria region, in which are sited and operate the Italian partners of the WINEVET project (the VET provider Aris Formazione e Ricerca, the winery company Cantine Lungarotti, the trade union UIL Perugia Umbria, and the regional public agency ARPAL - Agenzia Regionale per le Politiche Attive del Lavoro, which is competent for establishing qualification, training and certification standards applied in Umbrian regional territory), has one of the most advanced Italian regional VET systems, with specific rules defining both the Umbrian regional system of professional, training and certification standards (DGR - Deliberation of the Government of the Region 51 / 2010), and the Umbrian regional system for certification of competences and recognition of training credits, also coming from informal and non-formal learning (DGR 1429 / 2007, "Credits Directive", as modified and integrated by the DGR 834 / 2016). In synthesis, in the Umbria region, the professional, training and certification standards are formally established/updated by the Regional Government (art. 6 DGR 834 / 2016), directly (art. 6.2), or after proposals (art. 6.3) of the regional services competent in qualification matter (namely the ARPAL, established by the Umbria region with the Regional Law 1 / 2018), by the regional key representative actors in economic, professional and social fields, and by the VET provider accredited by Umbria region.

In this regional context, WINEVET's Italian partners sustained the endorsement and effective integration in the Umbrian regional qualification framework (and hence consequently in the Italian NQF) of the Umbrian-Macedonian post-secondary joint VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" established beforehand at transnational level by Memorandum of Understanding - MoU ECVET. The Italian partners supported in particular, in compliance with the commitments undertaken in the MoU ECVET, the formal transposition of the transnational qualification profile and of the joint training and assessment standards complementing the qualification profile, into the Umbrian regional qualification framework, as well as activities aimed to effective making use of the joint standards, particularly by VET providers.

The first step of the endorsement process achieved by the WINEVET's Italian partners was the adaptation of the transnational qualification profile "Winemaker Specialist" according to the formal documentation (i.e. regional official model for proposals of new qualifications) established by Umbrian rules, namely by the DGR 834 / 2016. The adaptation articulated and integrated, following the regional rules on professional standards, all the learning outcomes defined by the MoU ECVET for application in Italy. This adaptation step was done by the end of May 2020.

After the adaptation of the transnational qualification profile within the Umbrian regional official model for proposals of new qualifications, the partner ARPAL started the dialogue process with the Regional Government, proposing to it the official establishment of the new Umbrian professional profile "*Specialista di Vinificazione*", i.e. its formal insertion within the Umbrian catalogue of professional standards (*Repertorio dei Profili Professionali della Regione Umbria*, www.regione.umbria.it/lavoro-e-formazione/standard-professionali). This proposal step was done by the end of December 2020.

The Umbrian Regional Government started then the formal deliberation procedure about the official establishment of the new Umbrian professional profile "*Specialista di Vinificazione*", that will be provided for the end of March 2021.

From June 2020, the WINEVET's Italian partners also started the adaptation of the joint training standard complementing the transnational qualification profile "Winemaker Specialist" according to the formal documentation (i.e. regional official model for proposals of new training standards) established by Umbrian DGR 834 / 2016, at the aim of its formal presentation to the Regional Government (after the regional approval of the professional standard) for achieving its official

insertion in the Umbrian catalogue of training standards (*Repertorio degli Standard di Percorso Formativo*). This proposal step was done by the end of October 2020.

In parallel, the applicant Aris Formazione e Ricerca (which is a VET provider accredited by the Umbria region) proposed to the Umbria Region the funding of the training course "*Specialista di Vinificazione*" within the call for proposal "Skills" (ESF). The proposal was submitted by the end of July 2020.

Both the proposals of training standard and of training course articulated and integrated, following the regional rules on training standards and courses, all the training units of the joint curriculum for "Winemaker Specialist", in turn corresponding – in a ratio 1:1 – to the learning outcomes units defined by the MoU ECVET for application in Italy. The training course proposal for "*Specialista di Vinificazione*" also integrates the joint assessment standard defined at transnational level for the "Winemaker Specialist".

The endorsement and integration of Umbrian-Macedonian VET qualification "Winemaker Specialist" into Macedonian national qualification framework

Macedonian Qualifications Framework (MQF) is a mandatory national standard that regulates the acquisition and use of qualifications in the Republic of North Macedonia and an instrument for establishing a system of qualifications acquired in the Republic of North Macedonia that provides the basis for visibility, access, accessibility, acquisition and quality of qualifications. The framework contains a standardized description of the qualification, which indicates a key part of the content and structure of a particular qualification. In addition, MRC Includes all information required to determine the level, number of credits and qualification sector and data required to ensure the quality of the qualification standard.

Macedonian Qualifications Framework (MQF) is a young framework based on the traditional education and training system, the current state of education and training, the qualifications system, the needs of the labour market and individuals, the EQF and the international regulations accepted by the country beneficiary. With the adoption of the Law for National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and the appointment of an official national represent as a full member of the EQF Advisory Group, the country undertook to refer the ICF to the EQF, to present a such number of activities such as: establishing and staffing of NQF, establishment of a unit in the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), establishment and operation of the National MQF Board, establishment of a MQF website, publication of a comprehensive list of all qualifications and establishment of Sectorial Qualifications Commissions.

Further harmonization of the existing legislation with the law on national qualifications, capacity building and stronger involvement of labour market actors and labour market intelligence in the development of qualifications, strengthening of quality assurance systems, setting up a system for validation of informal and informal learning and developing a register of qualifications.

The integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian joint qualification for post-secondary vocational education and training "Winemaker Specialist" in the Macedonian National Qualification Framework was carried out in accordance with the Procedures for developing qualifications. The development of qualifications is a complex process that goes through several stages until they are approved. This also applies to the development of new qualifications and the promotion of existing qualifications, by amending or supplementing them.

In addition, the Working Group for the further Development of the National Framework for Lifelong Learning Qualifications with Involvement of Stakeholders, including the Social Partners, was established in April 2014. The EQF Report on the Reference of the Macedonian Qualifications and Self-Certification Framework to QF-EHEA, which was developed in 2014-2016, was adopted by EQF AG in February 2016. Further development and implementation of the NCF is on the highest national priority. Further harmonization of the existing legislation with the law on national qualifications, capacity building and stronger involvement of labour market actors and labour market intelligence in the development of qualifications, strengthening of quality assurance systems, setting up a system for validation of informal and informal learning and developing a register of qualifications, are aspects that we are focused on in this moment .

Phase 1: Basis for developing of qualification

The basis for developing the qualification is the needs of the labour market that are related to the relevant skills needs. Qualification is developed based on adopted occupational standards.

Phase 2: Submitting an initiative for developing of qualification

The qualification development initiative should include an explanation of the development of the new qualification, the need of the labour market, the name of the qualification, the level or sub-qualification of the qualification and a recommendation of a code referring to ISCO (when appropriate), a description of the qualification and time limit when the qualification starts to be implemented. An initiative to develop qualifications can be submitted by:

1. Sectoral commissions;
2. Institutions / legal entities or employer;
3. Higher education institutions and
4. Other bodies (professional bodies, trade unions, international educational institutions).

The initiative for developing of qualification under items 2; 3 and 4 is submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science (Department of NQF), with reviews the initiative and determines which sector the qualification belongs to. The initiative with the written proposal is further sent to the relevant Sector Commission.

Phase 3: Acting after the submitted initiative

The initiative submitted by institutions, legal entities or employers, from a higher education institution or other bodies, is considered by the relevant Sector Commission, based on certain criteria in accordance with the Law on National Qualifications Framework, and it can be accepted, rejected or request its recharge.

Phase 4: Development of qualifications

The submitter of the initiative, based on the positive opinion of the Sector Commission, submits a request to the Centre for Vocational Education and Training to develop a qualification. The qualification is prepared by a working group formed by the Centre for Vocational Education and Training. After the development of the qualification, the VET, through the Department of NQF in the Ministry of Education and Science, submits the developed qualification to the Sector Commission for consideration.

Stage 5: Approval of the qualification

The sectoral commission, after reviewing the qualification, can accept it or return it for completion to the Centre for Vocational Education and Training. The qualification is considered accepted if it is declared by a majority of the total number of members of the Sector Commission and an expert opinion is prepared for it. The accepted qualification and the expert opinion are submitted by the Sector Commission to the National Board of MQF for approval of the qualification. The National Board for MQF, based on the explanation of the proposer and the expert opinion of the Sectoral Commission, approves the qualification and makes a decision for classification of the qualification in the Macedonian Qualifications Framework. The approved qualification from the National Board is registered in the Register of the Macedonian Qualifications Framework.

Considering that the qualification is developed on the basis of adopted occupational standards, the first phase of the qualification development procedures was completed before the start of the WINEVET project, i.e. the standard of the Winemaker Specialist occupation has already been adopted.

According to the procedures for developing qualifications, an initiative can be submitted by an institution / legal entity. Given the fact that the Centre for Vocational Education and Training is a public institution for vocational education and training, established by the Government of the

Republic of Macedonia, as a partner in the project, has started the procedure for developing the qualification for Winemaker Specialist.

We started the adjustment of the qualification profile in the form for preparation of the standard of qualification Winemaker Specialist in Macedonian national qualification framework in June 2020. In accordance with the development of post-secondary education qualifications from the Manual for developing new qualifications for the National Qualifications Framework, and in accordance with the model and provisions of the Law on NQF, the Centre for Vocational Education and Training develops specialist post-secondary qualifications, and the National Board decides on the classification of the qualifications in the Macedonian Qualifications Framework, after a positive opinion of the Sectoral Commissions.

After the preparation of the working version of the standard of qualification Centre for Winemaker Specialist, the Centre for Vocational Education and Training (as a partner in the WINEVET project), it submitted it to the other domestic partners for consideration. After harmonizing the final version of the standard, the VET Centre submitted a request to the Ministry of Education and Science to submit the standard of qualification Winemaker Specialist for opinion to the Sector Committee for Agriculture, Fisheries and Veterinary and to the National Board for decision to deploy level V-B in the Macedonian framework of qualifications.

The Department of NQF at the Ministry of Education and Science in June submitted a written notification to the Chairman of the Sector Committee for Agriculture, Fisheries and Veterinary and the standard of qualification Winemaker Specialist for review and giving expert opinion to the National Board for decision on deployment V-B level in the Macedonian Qualifications Framework. The Sectoral Commission for Agriculture, Fisheries and Veterinary Medicine at its session held on 15.10.2020, adopted a formulated opinion to the National Board of MQF for a decision on the allocation of level V-B in the Macedonian Qualifications Framework.

The National Board for MQF, based on the explanation of the proposer and the expert opinion of the Sectoral Commission, should approve the qualification and make a decision for deployment in the Macedonian Qualifications Framework. After the approval of the qualification by the National Board, the qualification will be registered in the Register of the Macedonian Qualifications Framework. After the integration of the Umbrian-Macedonian joint qualification for post-secondary vocational education and training "Winemaker Specialist " in the Macedonian National Qualifications Framework, specifically, after the approval of the qualification by the National Board and registration in the Register of the Macedonian Qualifications Framework will follow the introduction of the qualification in formal and non-formal education.

The introduction of the qualification in the formal education in the Republic of North Macedonia takes place in five steps: Preparation of an analysis of the sector; Development of occupational standards; Development of qualification standards; Development of curricula; and Development of modular curricula. Steps 1 and 3 were completed within the project WINEVET Step 1 or preparation of an analysis of the sector was completed in Work Package, 2: Preparatory research for the professional and field for learning in the wine production segment in the agricultural sector in the Macedonian National Qualifications Framework and in the Umbrian Regional Qualifications Framework, as well as for relevant experiences and transferable good practices to support transnational common qualifications for vocational education and training based on ECVET. Step 3: Development of qualification standards was completed in Work Package 3: Design of the joint Umbrian-Macedonian qualification profile for post-secondary education "Winemaker Specialist ".

7: Support for integration and validation of the Umbrian-Macedonian joint qualification for post-secondary vocational education and training "Winemaker Specialist " in the included national and

regional qualification frameworks. Step 2: Development of occupational standards was completed before the WINEVET project began. In order to introduce the qualification Winemaker Specialist in formal education, it is necessary to operationalize steps 4 and 5: Development of a curriculum; and Development of modular curricula. Starting documents for curriculum development and modular curricula are: The concept of post-secondary education; The standard of qualification Winemaker Specialist ; The Joint qualification that complements the transnational qualification profile "Winemaker Specialist" with two parts (Part 1-Design of modular units; and Part 2-Detailed design of learning activities for each modular unit); as well as the Joint Guideline for Assessment of Learning Outcomes (Assessment of learning outcomes for standard elements of competence, common for the Republic of North Macedonia and the Umbria region).

Qualifications in non-formal education in North Macedonia are introduced through the development of special programs for adult education. Occupational standards are used as a basis for making special programs; Methodology for developing adult education programs; and the Adult Education Program Form. For the introduction of the qualification or part of the qualification Winemaker Specialist in non-formal education, in addition to the mentioned documents, all the documents prepared within the project WINEVET: The qualification standard for Winemaker Specialist; The joint qualification that complements the transnational qualification profile "Winemaker Specialist"; and the Joint Guide for Assessment of the Learning Outcomes.