



Project SEED

South East Europe harmonised qualification of professional Drivers

This project is co-funded by the European Union



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first issue of SEED project NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to present the 1st issue of our Newsletter to the road transport community members. The newsletter will be released every semester. Its goal is to keep you informed of any new development, progress, update and event on SEED project.

A twitter account has also been set up for you to follow us, as well as LinkedIn account. Do you have a success story to share? Do you have solutions to suggest or an upcoming event to promote? Please feel free to share your ideas to help us promote the project to the road transport stakeholders. Another way our SEED project will be reaching out to you is through our website filled with helpful information and resources.

In our first issue we're dealing with new and future Quality Charter for international road haulage operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System, how it is linked with SEED project and what would be the benefits for the transport industry. Also, in this first issue you'll find news on project partners stories related to trainings for the transport industry professionals.

We wish you a good reading!

SEED project team

Transport ministers approve Quality Charter for road freight

A Quality Charter for international road haulage operations has been approved by the transport ministers of the ITF European member countries. How it is linked with outcomes of the SEED Project?

LEIPZIG, JUNE 2015 – It's official. ECMT Transport Ministers have unanimously endorsed the ECMT Quality Charter, supported by the European Commission and the IRU, to set the highest possible standards for international road transport in Europe. The Charter focuses on social, legal, technical, environmental and practical applications and will become effective on 1 January 2016.



José Viegas, Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum

Senior Transport Specialist at the World Bank and IRU Academy Advisory Committee Chairwoman, Virginia Tanase, commented, "I'm convinced of the positive impact of the ECMT Quality Charter's implementation, which will help establish a better level playing field leading to improved transport quality, reduced CO2 emissions and increased road safety. Recognition of IRU Academy professional training standards should strongly contribute to providing road transport industry professionals with the knowledge and skills to perform their duties safely and efficiently. In order to attain the objectives of the Charter, public and private stakeholders have to put in place measures that assist transport operators in complying with those standards, notably in developing countries. Ideally, such standards should be replicated wherever needed, even beyond ECMT countries."

Indeed, the Charter recognises IRU Academy training standards as key benchmarks that meet ECMT Quality Charter requirements on professional qualification, notably its certificates and diplomas for drivers and managers. Since its creation, the IRU Academy has continuously raised the bar in high quality training to effectively ensure professionalism, performance, safety and sustainability across the board. Head of the IRU Academy, Patrick Philipp, concluded, "Our goal is to help everyone working in or with road transport achieve the highest level of knowledge and skills possible through professional training. The IRU congratulates the International Transport Forum for this successful and important step towards better transport and trade."

The Quality Charter establishes qualification standards for companies, managers and drivers and will enter into force on January 1st 2016. It applies to pan-European road haulage operations under the Multilateral Quota system established in 1974 by the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), which evolved into the International Transport Forum (ITF) in 2006.

José Viegas, Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum, which manages the Multilateral Quota system, said: "The approval of the Quality Charter is a major step towards harmonisation of conditions in the pan-European road freight transport market. The Charter, alongside the incitation mechanisms already in place for adoption of the most technologically advanced trucks, will establish the Multilateral Quota system as a symbol of quality, safety and environmental standards in road transport."

The approval of the Quality Charter completes longstanding work by the ITF on defining and promoting the highest standards for freight transport operators, managers and drivers at Pan-European level.

The ITF will monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Quality Charter by the member countries through its European Road Transport Group. It will also define follow-up actions for the further development of the Multilateral Quota system.

Therefore, transport industry from the SEE region, with EU as main trading partner, should strongly benefit from the SEED project. The South East Europe harmonized qualification of professional Drivers (SEED) is aimed primarily at raising training and technical skill levels of instructors delivering initial and periodic training to professional drivers in the South Eastern region of Europe. Since it is in line with IRU quality standards (IRU Projects is part of the partnership) and therefore recognized as right way in drivers education by ITF, project outputs should bring benefits to the transport industry in the whole region, preparing in time drivers, managers and companies for the future implementation of the Quality Charter.

SEED Partners in SKOPJE

On 6 and 7 May, the SEED project partners met for their 2nd transnational meeting. It was hosted by AMERIT in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia. The 9 partners from France, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, FYRM and the Republic of Kosovo actively discussed project outcomes, rules, communication plan, tasks, and future actions in detail.

SKOPJE, MAY 2015 – After jointly validating the communication plan and the pedagogical module, SEED first training resource, partners moved on to the technical module. It was decided to adopt a comprehensive driver training catalogue made up of topical modules, each consisting in a set of learning outcomes, underlying knowledge objectives, related delivery methods and evaluation criteria to the description. A work schedule has been established with deadlines in June and September leaving partners enough time to choose relevant topics for the technical module and make their own contribution.

Partners welcomed the information that the Quality Charter for international road haulage operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System was already submitted for ratification by the ECMT Council of Ministers and was explicitly making a reference to the harmonized qualification of professional drivers through the high quality professional training standards established by the IRU Academy. The same standards are integrated in the SEED Project from the very outset. Their official recognition within the ECMT Quality Charter will certainly greatly contribute to a wider support, by all national stakeholders, of the project outputs and its dissemination to the project countries and broader to all ECMT countries. The ECMT Multilateral Quota System is an indispensable tool as it gives the road transport industry access to operate international road haulage in all 43 ECMT countries, including the 28 EU member states which are the most important trade partner for the SEE countries.

The international meeting gave also the opportunity for partners to visit the capital city of Macedonia, a historically rich and important cultural, economic and political centre in the South East Europe region.

Partners have scheduled the third transnational meeting in Zagreb, Croatia in February 2016. The wrap-up meeting will be held in Brussels, Belgium in June 2017.



COB Široki Brijeg – Best Performing ATI of 2015

The IRU Academy, as part of its Associated Training Partner Recognition Programme, at its annual conference held in Sodertalje in Sweden, announced the winners of the 2015 Best Performing Accredited Training Institute (ATI).

Winning ATIs were awarded for their excellent contributions and tireless efforts in driving learning and development initiatives to build the required leadership and competencies to support a sustainable, safe and efficient road transport industry.

This year's winners are:

- Gold – COB (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Silver – CIPTI (Moldova)
- Bronze – KDS (Qatar) and TC ASMAP (Russia)

All 60 IRU Academy ATIs were evaluated on the number of students trained, diversity and quality of training programmes delivered, organisation and participation in Train the Trainer events and other IRU Academy Seminars, and involvement in and promotion of IRU Academy projects and initiatives.

COB Centar za Obrazovanje has been accredited also for ECO-Driving and Safe Loading and Cargo Securing Programmes



The CLOSER project (Combined Learning Objectives for Safer European Roads) is set to complement the results of the TRACE (Transport Regulators Align Control Enforcement) previous project. In order to achieve efficient, feasible and effective harmonised enforcement practices of European road transport legislation, and based on partners' proven knowledge, experience and expertise, its focus is on producing common learning objectives to harmonise learning outcomes of all key professional transport actors (drivers, transport operators, enforcers), from the perspective of road side and company checks, in a few major thematic areas related to cabotage rules, safe loading and cargo securing...

Creating greater connection and using all possible knowledge acquiring possibilities also an instructor from SEED Project partnership attended Closer Train the trainer program in Brussels bringing SEED to Closer and enabling Closer outputs reach broader audience through SEED partnership as well. Both projects involved also IRU as a key factor in joining efforts to make roads and transport industry safer and more productive through increasing knowledge level of all key players – legislators, transport companies, managers and drivers.

At the Train the trainer session partners from training institutes as well as representatives of the legislators or rules enforcement bodies were introduced to useful training materials and packages that would help in establishing same standards and same practices in the whole EU and among all key players.

150 GRADUATES EXPECTED AT THE POU AMC NOVA GRADISKA

POU AMC Nova Gradiska is an adult education institution founded in 2003 with focus on education in the Road Transport sector. By Croatia's accession to the EU, there have been changes related with training of professional drivers in accordance with the Law on Road Transport (NN 82/2013), which is compliant with Directive 2003/59/EC. Therefore, professional drivers Croatian citizens, drivers and citizens of third countries who are employed in companies established in the Republic of Croatia, must have initial qualification and regularly follow periodic training if they drive vehicles that require driving license of professional categories.

Acquiring initial qualification is provided for in Law on Road Transport and it requires qualification through testing, accelerated acquisition of initial qualification or through secondary education and periodic training for the occupation Professional driver, as well as through other forms of education or training, provided that the education or vocational training centre disposes with the facilities prescribed under this Act. After completing education for the Professional driver, along with regular certificate the participants are issued with Certificate of Professional Competence for initial qualification.

Since the process of acquiring the initial qualification testing of knowledge and the rapid acquisition of initial qualification is still not so widespread, the most common form of acquisition of initial qualification is still a program of secondary education and periodic training for the occupation Professional driver of the vehicle.

Between October 2014 to May 2015 and as part of its regular activities, POU AMC Nova Gradiška, began training of 150 future Professional drivers, out of which 65 have already qualified for taking the final exam in June 2015. All other students are expected to finish training in September 2015.

Participants of this program are colourful. Some drivers have been working in this profession, some are planning to engage in this profession from another occupation, and some of the participants are young people without work experience, who graduated from another school for the occupation where situation is not bright for the future.

All drivers are to acquire basic knowledge in professional as well as some general subjects. Since the Professional driver of a motor vehicle programme is not yet fully aligned with Directive 2003/59 / EC, our instructors, familiar with the programmes of the IRU Academy, along with the basics, give the emphasis on training in rational driving, implementation of regulations, health, road safety and protection of environment.

NEWS

INA and ORYX Centar za sigurnu voznju – long term partnership

ORYX Centar za sigurnu voznju is one and only safety driving training centre in Croatia, specialised for eco and safety driving trainings, equipped with modules for training in different driving techniques.

One of the many clients is INA d.d., the national oil company. Traffic safety is acknowledged as one of the main pillars of their working process. Therefore INA, with the help of Oryx, provided safety and eco drive trainings for their employees who annually drive more than 30.000 kilometres, for the young drivers and ones that were involved in traffic accidents.

Realisation was successful, resulting in fewer traffic accidents in the last few years. Support to the program was given by board members headed by CEO Mr. Zoltan Aldott who also joined trainings. INA received accolade from Oryx regarding their efforts in raising standards for traffic safety.



A SEED LinkedIn account



As part of projects dissemination strategy, SEED project partners introduced also, a LinkedIn group account for all professionals in the transport industry from the region and more to share ideas, comments the project outputs... It is an open group and anyone can join and share its own thoughts and ideas. If you're member of the LinkedIn you can reach the group under the name Project SEED EU (<https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8311508>). Join us and tell us what you think.

A general brochure, web page and a blog

A brochure, web page and a blog will also make up the communication strategy plan and will help disseminate the project SEED results to the wider community of road transport in the SEE region. General brochure is to be prepared and published by the autumn this year and you can read about SEED partners activities on our web page where is our blog as well – <http://www.seed-project.net/news>.

A SEED Twitter account



As part of SEED dissemination strategy - already started with the website - CCIS-ATT our Serbian partner has created a twitter account to keep track of SEED, share and follow any update and useful information on the project. The account can be found by searching for @SEEDprojectEU or by visiting the following link: <https://twitter.com/SEEDprojectEU>

Erasmus+ has also an official Twitter account and is already one of our followers. All 9 partners are kindly invited to start following the SEED account with their private or their professional accounts. It has been decided that Promotrans and IRU Projects will be first consulted prior to any announcement or publications posted on the account.

A general brochure and a blog

A brochure and a blog will also make up the communication strategy plan and will help disseminate the project SEED results to the wider community of road transport in the SEE region. Again it is a joint contribution and the partners are kindly invited to complete the brochure and the blog with any information that they find relevant for the SEED project.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Revision of the Directive 2003/59/EU
- EC directive on vehicle roadworthiness
 - Focus on cargo
 - Bus drivers training specifics...

Partners:



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