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**e-Training Centre for
Social Entrepreneurs**

ETC.4SE



e-Training Centre for SE

ETC.4SE Learning Platform Certification of SE consultants in the context of the EQF



IRIS SA



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1. The professional profile of social economy consultants

The lack of an integrated framework in secondary and tertiary education corresponding to the growing dimensions of the social economy sector around Europe has led to a demand for consultants or advisors on social entrepreneurship. In many cases, especially in countries in Europe where social economy is still in a development phase, this demand has led to the involvement of individuals in the area of social economy employed as advisors/educators that are either characterized by a lack of necessary qualifications or the use of non-certified, informally acquired knowledge.

2. THE CERTIFICATION and the EQF (European Qualification Framework)

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) is a common European reference framework which links the qualification systems of the countries, acting as a translation device for easier reading and understanding of qualifications across different countries and systems in Europe.

The common reference level of the EQF contains eight levels, each level is determined by a set of descriptions that indicate the learning outcomes associated with the main functions of each profession.

So far only partial analysis efforts of the profession of the advisor of social economy with a European dimension have been observed, while internationally, the only attempt to certify learning outcomes of advisors/educators was implemented by the Scottish Qualifications Authority but which does not propose a specific methodology of certification.

Since the previous review, the need for the development of the Professional Profile of the advisor/educator of social economy and the development of a proposed methodology of certification of the learning outcomes that is in line with the EQF becomes apparent.

As a result, it is important to answer research questions such as: a) what are the basic tasks that an advisor of social economy executes? b) At what level is it assigned to the EQF; c) what is the importance/weighting of learning outcomes and assessment categories in the certification?



3. Research findings

A research published by Vasiliadis A. et al "Social economy and certification in the context of the EQF", implementing the *Professional Profile Delphi method* (Halas, 2002) was based on a sample of 45 participants in 3 different EU countries. A coordinator for each participating country and 15 individuals who are active in the field of social economy (academics and professionals) participated.

The main findings are as follows, regarding:

a) The basic tasks that an advisor of social economy must execute

The following Main Professional Functions (MPF) resulted regarding the Professional profile of the advisor of Social Economy.

The MPFs that prevailed and were proposed, included the following:

- Welcome, Supports and Serves the individuals referring to the institution (MPF 1)
- Advises/Trains interested individuals in general entrepreneurial and business issues (MPF 2)
- Advises/Trains interested individuals in organizational and management issues (MPF 3)
- Advises/Trains interested individuals in issues relating to marketing and business communication (MPF 4)
- Materializes educational and training adult programs in the sector of social economy (MPF 5)
- Supports the processes of dissemination of services of the institution and entrepreneurship (MPF 6)



b) Level of assigning the professional profile to the EQF

	GR		PL(1)		PL(2)		IT		TOTAL	
	EQF Level	% weighting	EQF Level	% weighting	EQF Level	% weighting	EQF Level	% weighting	EQF Level	% weighting
Knowledge	5	39%	5	38%	5	30%	5	39%	5	36%
Skills	5	22%	5	31%	5	30%	5	22%	5	26%
Competences	5	39%	5	32%	6	40%	5	39%	5	38%
	5	100%	5	100%	5	100%	5	100%	5	100%

Final level of EQF and weighting that the Certification of Advisor/Educator of Social Economy receives.

c) Weighting of learning outcomes and categories of assessment and evaluation in the certification

The table that follows shows the category and percentage with which each learning outcome was assessed.

	CV	TEST	CASE STUDY	Total
Knowledge	-	70%	30%	100
Skills	20%	60%	20%	100
Competences	30%	-	70%	100

Percentage of evaluation of each learning outcome per category



The percentage weight of each category of evaluation (curriculum vitae, online test, case study) results from the percentage of evaluation of each learning outcome per category depending on the weight given to each learning outcome from the process of correlation/assigning to the EQF.

	CV	TEST	CASE STUDY	Total
Knowledge	-	25,2 ¹	10,8	36
Skills	5,2 ²	15,6	5,2	26
Competences	11,4	-	26,6 ³	38
	16,6	40,8	42,6	100

Weighting of each category of evaluation in the overall score

¹ 70 (percentage of knowledge that the online test evaluates, table 3)*36% (percentage of weighting of knowledge, table 2)

² 20 (percentage of skills that the CV evaluates, table 3)*26% (percentage of weighting of skills, table 2)

³ 70 (percentage of competences that the case study evaluates, table 3) *38% (percentage of weighting of competences, table 2)