



INNOVATIVE QUALIFICATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION IN BUILDING SECTOR

PROJECT CODE:  
N. 597840-EPP-1 2018-1-IT-EPPKA3-VET-JQ

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



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## Icaro final event – conclusions and remarks

In the framework of the Erasmus+ Icaro, the consortium team successfully organised the project closing event on **12 March 2021**. It was attended by more than 80 participants, who had the chance to follow the online event in English as well as Italian, Lithuanian and Spanish – the official languages of the project – thanks to simultaneous translation.

The building sector is facing a **paradigm shift**, with all the stakeholders chain needing to keep pace with technology more so than before. Despite its growing possibilities, construction doesn't appeal to the younger generations who perceive it as a manual, hard work environment. An urgent generational and cultural change would steer unemployed people towards **qualified professions to meet the labour market demands**. These were some of the key points raised during the event by moderator Giorgio Allulli and the panelists, who comprehensively presented the “Construction Site Technician” qualification scheme and other results achieved during the last two years.

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KA3 - Support for Policy Reform  
Joint Qualifications in Vocational Education and Training. (VET)  
PROJECT CODE: N. 597840-EPP-1 2018-1-IT-EPPKA3-VET-JQ  
Project duration: from 15/12/2018 to 14/12/2020

**ICARO**  
INNOVATIVE QUALIFICATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION IN BUILDING SECTOR

**Closing Event**

**12 March 2021**  
10:00 – 13:00 CET

FORMEDIL  
FUNDACIÓN LABORAL DE LA CONSTRUCCIÓN  
flic FUNDACION LABORAL DE LA CONSTRUCCION DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS  
VENKUS  
ALMA MATER STUDIOSUM  
PANEVŽIO PREKYBOS, PRAMONĖS IR AMATŲ RŪMAI  
IIPLE

## Take away messages:



Giorgio Allulli

*“Work-based learning and apprenticeships should become the paradigm of training to introduce elements of flexibility within the curricula. [...] The demand for qualified technicians updated on new technologies is strong in all sectors, but is especially high in construction. Labor market analyses show **a lack of qualified technicians** in this sector, and **this reduces the productivity of companies**, increases*

*research and turnover in the workplace, and hinders the adoption of new technologies. A deficit in the pool of skills can be a constraint on the companies ability to continue to expand.”*

**Giorgio Allulli** - Expert in EQAVET process and European training policies

*Among the themes and the topics that Icaro tackled **are digitalisation, environmental issues and energy**. They are on the top of the EU policy agenda. Therefore, I see big potential for spreading the results of the Icaro project. Icaro is also deals with **work-based learning and mobility**. The results of the project will help people to move from one region to another region, from one country to another country. That is the reason why your project on joint qualification will be important even after its end.”*



Pavol Krempaský

**Pavol Krempaský**, project manager at EACEA - Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (European Commission)



Marco Bragadin

*“Mainly comprising SMEs – with the related challenges that this generates – **construction is an industry like no other**. Its characteristics such as the large number of SMEs, the fragmentation and divisiveness, its service-oriented nature, make impossible to influence the demand for its products or to control the supply-chain. Consequently, **the instability of the demand affects all the industry**.”*

**Marco Alvisè Bragadin**, University of Bologna

*“The initial idea of a new construction technician qualification considering the lack of skilled construction workers and the need for new specific skills not covered by the VET System. Besides, **more than 40% of employers in the EU have trouble finding people with the skills they need**. The general goals of the Icaro project consist of revitalising the construction industry that needs replacements; orientating young and unemployed people towards a qualified profession; and making the industry more attractive.”*

**Rossella Martino**, Icaro coordinator and co-director of Formedil.



rossella martino



*“Currently in Spain there is **a lack of national cooperation tools between the training centers and the companies**, which implies the coexistence of different **Dual VET models** – models mixing the theoretical programs with remunerated scholarship and/or contracts for training and apprenticeship – together with **Work-based learning systems** – which in Spain are still conceived as non-formal education.”*

**Laura Mesa**, Fundación Laboral de la Construcción (FLC)

*“A remark resulting from our survey on the needs of the construction sector is that **construction is still a “traditional” sector**, especially in Italy and partially in Spain, also characterised by a low propensity to change and a low rate of innovation. **VET could be a really important driver to revitalise the industry**, steering young people towards qualified professions allowing a generational turnover”*



**Luisa Sileni**, Istituto Istruzione Professionale Lavoratori Edili (IIPLE)



*“Why there is a need for a new qualification? The time is changing, and **the existing qualification of construction site technician needs to be upgraded** (e.g. Italy, Spain) and **introduced** (e.g. Lithuania) **in several EU countries**. This is the reason why ICARO qualification was created and of course it must reflect: 1) the EU, national or interregional context; 2) the degree of achieved or achievable agreement between the involved institutional actors and the social partners; 3) the considered professional and training field.”*

**Danielius Burokas**, VSRC – Vilnius Builders Training Centre

*“Assuring quality in vocational education and training has always been a priority for the European Commission, in order to help users and providers making better choices according to the market needs. [...] Icaro partners drew up some guidelines on quality assurance for VET providers, based on EQAVET. These guidelines to be potentially implemented once the **new profile of Construction Site Technician will be adopted as a training program** by the Icaro VET organisations.”*

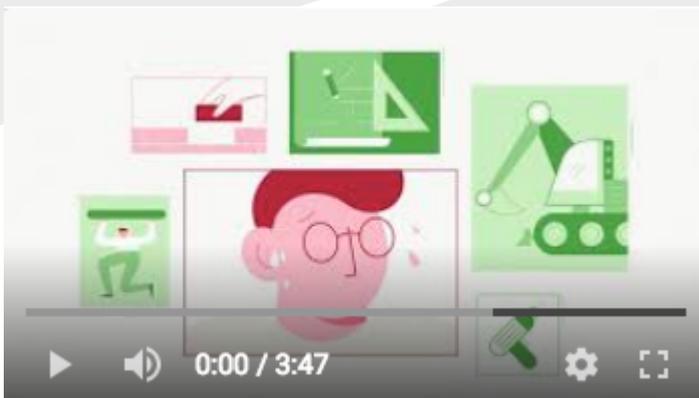


**Marta Hevia Fano**, Fundación Laboral de la Construcción del Principado de Asturias

To know more about the ICARO closing event, watch the recordings [here](#).



Watch also the [animation video](#)



and the [promotional video](#) produced by the Icaro team.



## About ICARO

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ICARO is a Erasmus+ project of 8 partners who share the same vision: to train a new generation of construction site technicians. This European project is developing a new Construction Site Technician qualification, a multi-functional profile able to respond to the challenges of the building industry. The qualification scheme has been developed by 5 vocational training centres (Formedil, FLC, FLC Asturias, IIPLE, VSRC), a European professional association (ACE), a chamber of commerce (Panevezys CCIC) and a university (UNIBO).

The full analysis of the survey results will be published in the coming days on the project website. From this analysis is evident that, as claimed by several participants in the survey, further role models are needed in order to make the sector more inclusive. For this reason, the Icaro team is planning an awareness campaign intending to attract more women and youngsters to the industry. The team will run a series of interviews to key figures in construction (architects, trainers, as well as students) in the following weeks. If you want to know more, stay tuned on our social media and website!

[www.icaroproject.eu](http://www.icaroproject.eu)



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