Newsletter #1

PROfessionalising DOMestic housekeepers in Europe

August 2017

News

New Associated Partner joins the project: Grupo SSI

On August 8th 2017, the Basque cooperative officially became associated partner to the PRODOME project.

A few months ago, Grupo SSI, a cooperative for personal and social care services at home based in the Basque Country in Spain, expressed its desire to work with the PRODOME project's consortium as associated partner.

Mrs Karmele Acedo, CEO of Grupo SSI showed her interest in this project which fits with Grupo SSI's missions.

Indeed, this Basque cooperative, established since 1987, is committed to answering the social needs of vulnerable and dependent people. It also offers professional training and qualifications for social care and home services professionals. Through the PRODOME project, Grupo SSI is interested in improving the training offer for domestic housekeepers.

Grupo SSI, thanks to its expertise in the social care and home services sector, will be an asset to the project. Moreover, once the training is available, they will be able to implement it in the Basque Country, which will not only broaden the scope of the project, but also bring more exploitable results in order to improve the European curriculum for domestic housekeepers in the future.

The PRODOME project (PROfessionalising DOMestic housekeepers in Europe) organised its kick-off meeting in Paris , on the 29th and 30th of November 2016 on the FEPEM's premises.

The project partners took the opportunity to discuss the situation of domestic workers in their respective countries (France, Italy, Spain), especially regarding training, certification and professionalisation in general.

They also organised the first activities of the project, particularly those leading to the study "the state of the art of domestic work in Europe: housekeepers and related profiles" and to the European Curriculum for Domestic Housekeepers.

PRODOME partners participated in event "Domestic worker: a professional at the heart of the household, a job-creating profession"

Two partners of the PRODOME project (PROfessionalising DOMestic housekeepers in Europe) took part in this national event organised by IPERIA l'Institut: ASSINDATCOLF (Associazione dei datori di lavoro domestico), who represents the individual employers in Italy and CCOO (Comisiones Obreras), which is an employees union in Spain.

Indeed, Mrs Luisa Gardella, head of training programmes, spoke to present the initiatives carried out by ASSINDATCOLF for the promotion of the professionalisation of domestic workers, not only in Italy, but also at a European level thanks to the Erasmus+ PRODOME project. This project aims mainly at creating a European training programme for domestic workers.

The representatives of the Spanish union CCOO participated as audience members and were very interested in the recognition of the added value of training for these types of professions.

Lastly, a guided tour of the VET provider Eclipse's premises enabled the partners to see how training for domestic workers is organised in the field, including classrooms and technical facilities such as kitchens and fully equipped rooms.

On the 13th and 14th of June 2017, the partners from the PRODOME consortium met for the second time, in Madrid, on the premises of the Spanish partner FOREM.

This meeting was an opportunity for the partners to discuss the progress of the different Work Packages (WP). In particular, they discussed the results of the first interviews and questionnaires organised within the framework of "WP1: Reference framework definition". The results of these interviews and questionnaires with VET providers, policy makers and domestic housekeepers will contribute to the first deliverable of this project, i.e. the study entitled: "State of the art of domestic housekeepers in Europe".

For more information on this deliverable, see **www.prodome.eu**

During this meeting, the members of the project were able to greet for the first time face to face the new partner of the project: Grupo SSI. Indeed, Mrs Karmele Acedo, CEO of Grupo SSI, as well as Mrs Susana Moreno, Head of the training department at Grupo SSI, were there to represent the new partner. Grupo SSI is a cooperative for personal and social care services at home from the Basque Country and will officially join the project as associated partner as soon as the new partnership agreement is signed.

For more information about Grupo SSI, see: **http://grupossi.es/es/inicio/**

Project progress: first Work package (WP) and communication

The project started in November 2016 and the partners have made good progress regarding the first activities. So here is a short recap on the progress of the first tasks.

First work package : Reference framework definition

As this work package aims at defining the reference and competence framework for the project, it is an essential one for the rest of the activities. Hence, the aim of this WP is to prepare the field for the others by establishing sound and informed groundwork.

The deliverable that will embody this working basis is a study named "State of the art of domestic work in Europe: housekeepers and related profiles".

To obtain the necessary information for this study, the partners have:

- conducted so called "semi-directive" interviews with VET providers, experts and policy makers;
- used the Delphi method (a two-round questionnaire) to get the opinion of national and European experts on the domestic employment sector and the competences of domestic housekeepers;
- created a questionnaire for domestic housekeepers in order to gather their thoughts about their profession, and in particular the competences necessary to practice it.

Dissemination and exploitation

The work package 7 (WP7: Dissemination and exploitation) is transversal to all other WPs because it deals with the diffusion of the projects and its results as widely as possible. This transmission is obviously linked to the definition of a communication strategy and a project brand (including a clear visual identity).

Concerning the latter, the partners decided to create several tools, such as the project logo or the templates for project documents. The logo (see on the left) was chosen for its original shape which combines a house (representing domestic workers and their working environment) and a speech balloon (symbolising the open dialog between the PRODOME partners, the domestic housekeepers and stakeholders who may be impacted by the project).

The members of the project have also started work on the PRODOME website in order to provide information about the project and its progress to interested people. In addition to publications on social networks, this will attract people who, at first sight, do not have any link with domestic employment.

Together, we can contribute to the recognition of the profession and its competences.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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