

## Towards a European qualification for Solid Waste Facilities' Managers - SWFM-QF

The SWFM-QF project has been funded in the framework of Lifelong Learning Programme under the action of LEONARDO DA VINCI Multilateral Projects for Development of innovation. (Grant Agreement reference no 2012-3351/001-001 signed on 12/09/2012).

### SWFM-QF partners:

-  [SIGMA Consultants Ltd. \(Sigma\)](#)
-  [Hellenic Federation of Environmental Protection Companies \(PASEPPE\)](#)
-  [Saxon Education Company for Environmental Protection and Chemical Occupations Dresden Ltd. \(SBG-DD\)](#)
-  [Research Institute for Vocational Education & Training \(F-BB\)](#)
-  [SINERGIE Società Consortile a responsabilità limitata \(SINERGIE\)](#)
-  [Szent Istvan University \(SZIE\)](#)
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-  [Alytus Region Waste Management Center \(ARWMC\)](#)
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### This ISSUE

1. The SWFM-QF Knowledge Base
2. Evaluation Process
3. How can Health Impact Assessment support Strategic Environmental Assessment
4. SWFM-QF Gödöllő meeting
5. Next planned actions
6. Visual instructions

## Towards a European qualification for Solid Waste Facilities' Managers - SWFM-QF

### 1. The SWFM-QF Knowledge Base

The SWFM-QF knowledge base offers a wide variety of articles and information on solid waste management, solid waste professionals' qualifications and vocational training issues originating from different European sources.

SWFM-QF Knowledge base was developed in order to highlight good practices, as well as any other information concerning knowledge, skills and competences development for Solid Waste Facilities Managers. Now, SWFM-QF stakeholders and website visitors can be informed on several issues on solid waste management, relative educational issues that interest professionals involved in the sector, while new informative material is continuously added. New articles and information will continue to be uploaded during the overall project lifetime and after its ending. At the moment interested stakeholders can be informed for topics like Municipal waste management and evaluation of green waste composting possibilities in Lithuania, the Joint Strategy for Municipal Waste

Management in the Baltic Sea Region, the Recycling Situation in Bulgaria, vocational education and training in Poland, Health and Safety in Solid Waste Management Facilities in Greece.

Any new knowledge developed during the project will also be added to the knowledge base including the experiences gained from surveys, workshops, and conferences.

European, other international competent bodies and interested stakeholders are invited to add their work and information on the abovementioned issues rendering SWFM-QF Knowledge Base a valuable informational source for solid waste management professionals, enterprises and other competent entities.

The uploading process is easy (refer to point 6. Visual instructions). It only needs registration to SWFM-QF website ([http://www.swfm-qf.eu/main/?page\\_id=4900&lang=en](http://www.swfm-qf.eu/main/?page_id=4900&lang=en)) and the next simple 4 steps:

**STEP 1:** Login to the website as a registered SWFM-QF member. - **STEP 2:** Down to your left hand select **ADD Knowledge**. - **STEP 3:** Select the title



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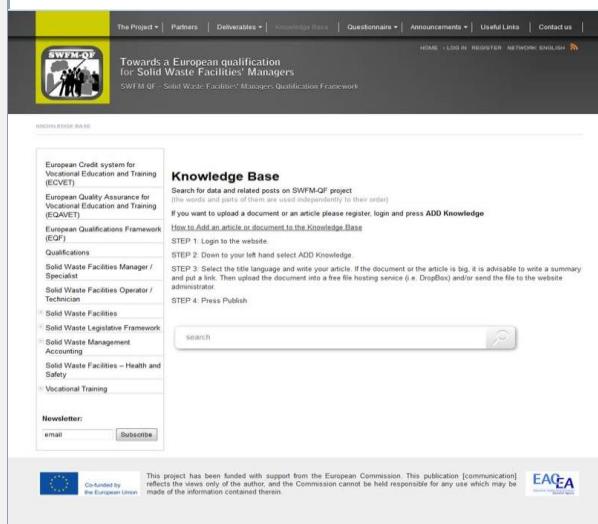
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language and write your article. If the document or the article is big, it is advisable to write a summary and put a link. Then upload the document into a free file hosting service and/or send the file to the website administrator. - **STEP 4:** Press Publish.

Informative articles can also be sent to SWFM-QF e-mail address: [info@swfm-qf.eu](mailto:info@swfm-<u>qf</u>.eu). Project's website administrator will undertake the task to upload them in the Knowledge Base



The screenshot shows the website interface for the SWFM-QF project. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'The Project', 'Partners', 'Deliverables', 'Questionnaire', 'Announcements', 'Useful Links', and 'Contact us'. Below the menu is a header section with the project title and a logo. The main content area is titled 'Knowledge Base' and contains instructions for users to add articles or documents. It includes a search bar and a list of qualifications. The qualifications listed are: European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), European Quality Assurance for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET), European Qualifications Framework (EQF), Solid Waste Facilities Manager / Specialist, Solid Waste Facilities Operator / Technician, Solid Waste Legislation Framework, Solid Waste Management Accounting, Solid Waste Facilities - Health and Safety, and Vocational Training. There is also a newsletter subscription form.

## 2. Evaluation Process

Over the past year, the project partners have been working towards the development of a new qualification framework, for the solid waste management industry and within the next few months, the draft qualification framework will be finalised. This means that the project partners are preparing to proceed to the next step; the evaluation process. The evaluation process will last six months, and will be a key element of the project. This process involves the internal and external evaluation of the proposed qualification frameworks, and will be carried out in two phases.

The first phase, internal evaluation, will concern the evaluation of the qualification framework and will be carried out by the members of the SWFM-QF Network. The

members of the network will be invited to an on-line forum for the conduction of the evaluation, via the communication and an on-line forum for the conduction of the evaluation, via the Communication and Knowledge IT tool. A platform for discussion will be provided as well as an on line evaluation questionnaire.

This phase will allow for the assessment of the integrity of the proposed knowledge, skills and competences' and the extent of their conformity with the EQF level, the value of the learning outcomes, and the adequacy of the learning units. The questionnaire will also seek to assess their impact to the mobility and quality of professionals in the Solid Waste Management industry across Europe.

The second phase will involve external evaluators for the assessment of the qualification framework. Some of the project partners will assign two external experts, who will conduct the evaluation of the deliverables. Each evaluator will produce a report containing remarks and suggestions over the content of the qualification framework, the proposed training course curriculum and the training material.

The feedback and outcomes of the evaluation phases, including conclusions and suggestions stemming from the forum discussions, the questionnaire results and the external experts reports will be invaluable to the project partners, as all feedback will be taken into account when preparing the final version of the qualification framework.

*If you would like to get involved, and provide feedback on the qualification framework, please register on the website, so you can be kept up to date with project progress, news and developments, including the evaluation of the qualification framework.*



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### 3. How can Health Impact Assessment (HIA) support Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Author: M. Stevanin (T.E.R.R.A. S.r.l.)

The management of waste and the construction of new treatment plants are very debated at public level, because of their impacts threatening health.

The so-called NIMBY syndrome ('not in my back yard') very often occurs when decisions need to be taken for building waste management facilities.

Environmental and health issues must therefore be integrated within urban development planning with the aim to contribute to sustainable development.

In recent years, European legislation highlights a growing awareness towards environmental and health impact assessment thus confirming the great importance of social and health implications while implementing and evaluating plans and programmes for urban development that may affect the environment and quality of life of the population.

The European SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and the SEA Protocol, defined in Kiev in 2003, have therefore awarded an important role to Strategic Environmental Assessment, evaluating all those plans and programmes which can produce environmental effects. The integration of SEA and HIA would enhance and improve the systematic analysis of significant environmental effects, ensuring the overall assessment of the territorial components.

In this context, public participation plays a central role: in fact, the integration of procedures for SEA and HIA becomes feasible and effective enhancing consultation between local authorities and institutions (national and international) and reaching common decisions with relevant actors involved in the assessment process.

Currently, the issue of protecting human health is included in Annex I and II of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. Annex I, point f) specifies that information must be provided regarding possible significant effects on the environment, including aspects related to population and human health.

It is therefore important to collect and analyze health-related data and information in the evaluation process to ensure that protection and improvement of human health are considered appropriately.

The integration of Health Impact Assessment can be therefore a good practice for assessing effectively and efficiently consequences of urban plans and programs.

Finally, last October 2013 in Strasbourg the European Parliament adopted the report on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2011/92/EU.

A major step that includes public participation in decision-making process and the evaluation of health effects related to urban plans and projects.

The approval of this significant law is expected by February 2014, after nearly 30 years from Directive 85/337/EEC.

### 4. SWFM-QF 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting

During the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November the 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination meeting was held in G d ll , Hungary. It was successfully organized by the Szent Istv n University. During the meeting the project progress was presented and the next six months actions were planned.

Meeting's photos and presentations can be found at project's website:

[http://www.swfm-  
gf.eu/main/?page\\_id=7091&lang=en](http://www.swfm-<br/>gf.eu/main/?page_id=7091&lang=en)



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## 5. Next planned actions

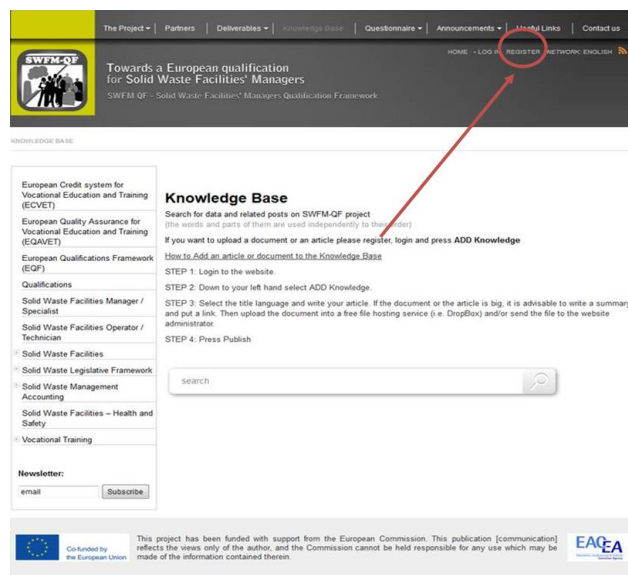
Shortly the final version of the Comparison Report based on the national reports will be translated into eight national languages.

The first issue of the Solid Waste Facilities Managers Competence Framework is expected to be ready early next year. The partners from each country have selected one type of solid waste facility to prepare the technical competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes) a manager should acquire during her/his training.

Next Coordination meeting is foreseen for March or early April 2013. It will be held in Scotland. It will be hosted by the Trust Waste Management. The purpose of the 4<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting will be the discussion of the project status in each participating country, the on-going and future activities, financial and administrative issues.

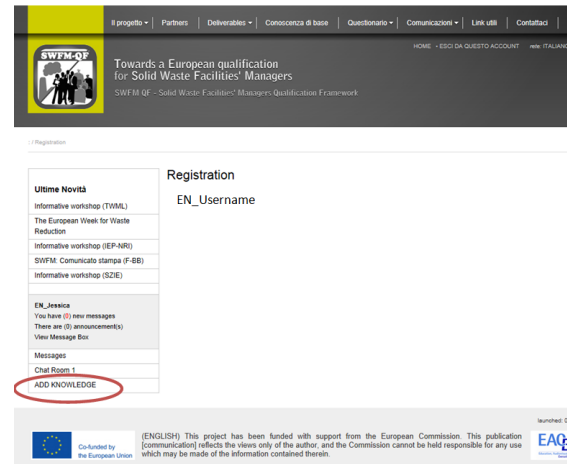
## 6. Visual instructions

### REGISTER



The screenshot shows the website interface for 'Towards a European qualification for Solid Waste Facilities' Managers'. The top navigation bar includes links for 'HOME', 'REGISTER', 'NETWORK', and 'ENGLISH'. A red circle highlights the 'REGISTER' link, with a red arrow pointing to it from the text 'REGISTER' below. The main content area is titled 'KNOWLEDGE BASE' and contains a search bar, a list of qualifications, and a newsletter subscription form. The footer includes logos for the European Union and EAQEA, along with a disclaimer: '(ENGLISH) This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] 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.'

## ADD KNOWLAGE



The screenshot shows the 'Registration' page of the website. The 'ADD KNOWLAGE' button is highlighted with a red circle. The page includes a navigation bar, a header with the project title, and a registration form with fields for 'EN\_Username' and 'EN\_Username'. The footer includes logos for the European Union and EAQEA, along with a disclaimer: '(ENGLISH) This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] 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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