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

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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 \(SZIE\)](#)
-  [Association of Environmental Enterprises \(KSZGYSZ\)](#)
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-  [Alytus Region Waste Management Center \(ARWMC\)](#)
-  [Bulgarian Industrial Association \(BIA\)](#)

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

1. Info-Training Toolkit

One of the aims of SWFM-QF project was the creation of the Info-Training Toolkit (ITT) containing requirements and curriculum for the vocational training of Solid Waste Facilities' Managers.

Now all developed training material and references are uploaded on the project's IT platform. As part of the ITT, a multinational glossary of the relative technical terms was prepared and made available in all project's languages on the project's website.

Based on the different qualification modules (EQF level 6) developed during the project, the curriculum for the vocational training is depicted in detail. It consists of several major units corresponding to qualification modules. It contains a course concept and structure for each qualification module and requirements for trainers', trainees' and training facilities and infrastructures.

The major training units have been developed for seven technical qualifications corresponding to the management of different solid waste facilities: anaerobic digestion, MBT, composting, landfilling, recycling, thermal treatment and sorting.

Major training units were also developed for six common qualifications:

- 1) **Environmental** which provides updated knowledge of pollution control equipment and environmental management systems and tools
- 2) **Financial and contractual** aiming at enhancing managers' comprehension of the financial and contractual aspects of operations on the SWM facility
- 3) **Health and safety** providing managers with the knowledge and skills of critical aspects of personnel's occupational H&S issues and with necessary qualifications for ensuring the safe operation of solid waste facilities
- 4) **Human resources** providing facilities' managers with the necessary qualifications for personnel management
- 5) **New projects** considering the basics and the practical issues for the management of a new project such as the strategic planning and implementation of a new business plan
- 6) **Operational** which aims at developing the skills and competences required for the management of core operations on SWM facilities

To access the ITT it is necessary to register on the project website: www.swfm-qf.eu



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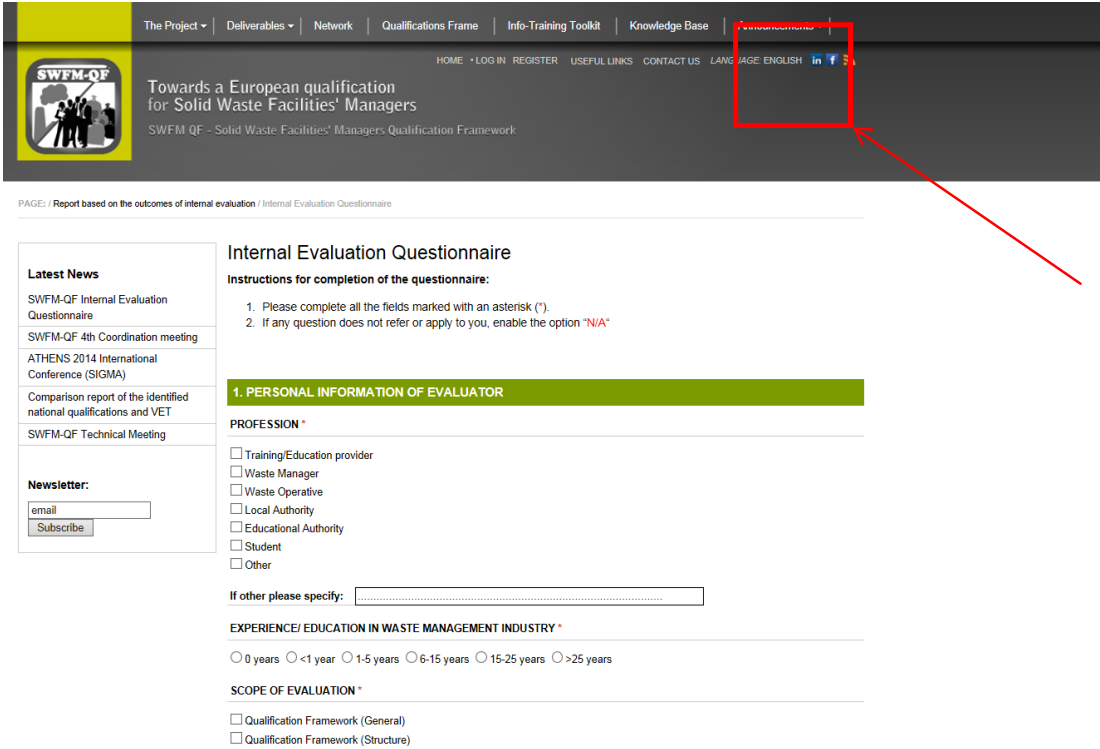
2. Evaluation process

Over the past 6 months, project team has been working hard to develop a qualification framework for solid waste (non-hazardous) managers within the EU. A suite of qualifications have been developed, composed of “common qualifications” and “technical qualifications”.

“Technical qualifications” are linked to the type of waste plant: landfill, anaerobic digestion, mechanical and biological treatment, composting, thermal treatment, waste sorting facilities. Along with the qualifications, project partners have also provided a course curriculum and suggested training materials (Info-Training Toolkit). The framework of these qualifications and associated Info-Training Toolkit can be found on project website www.swfm-qf.eu

Everyone interested in expressing their own opinion about the developed material contributed to the final version of the qualification, by fulfilling a short, interactive questionnaire, available in national languages. (Link: http://www.swfm-qf.eu/main/?page_id=8398&lang=en).

Internal evaluators could choose their own national language using the drop-down menu available on the right of the webpage:



The screenshot shows the website header with navigation links: The Project, Deliverables, Network, Qualifications Frame, Info-Training Toolkit, Knowledge Base, and a language selection dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box, and a red arrow points to it. Below the header, the page title is "Towards a European qualification for Solid Waste Facilities' Managers". The main content area is titled "Internal Evaluation Questionnaire" and includes instructions for completion. The questionnaire is divided into sections: "1. PERSONAL INFORMATION OF EVALUATOR" and "2. EVALUATION OF THE QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK". The "1. PERSONAL INFORMATION OF EVALUATOR" section includes fields for "PROFESSION" (with checkboxes for Training/Education provider, Waste Manager, Waste Operative, Local Authority, Educational Authority, Student, and Other) and "EXPERIENCE/ EDUCATION IN WASTE MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY" (with radio buttons for 0 years, <1 year, 1-5 years, 6-15 years, 15-25 years, and >25 years). The "2. EVALUATION OF THE QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK" section includes checkboxes for "Qualification Framework (General)" and "Qualification Framework (Structure)".

To view the material, it is necessary to register yourself on the website, and then log in to access the materials.

The evaluation started at the end of June and it will be finished at end of July. The results collected into this phase will be used to develop the final version of the qualifications.



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Completion of the Harmonised Qualifications Framework

SWFM-QF partners have concluded the development of the Harmonised Qualifications Framework (HQF) addressed to Solid Waste Management Facilities' Managers. The developed qualifications framework is a result of the experience and long term research of SWFM-QF partners after conducting comparison studies and making direct contact with the staff of operating solid waste facilities in 8 European countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and UK). The methodology used to compile the qualifications framework was based on the methodology implemented for the development of a Professional Profile. A Professional profile is defined as the overall professional functions, activities and tasks that make up the working role of a profession or a specialty and the relevant knowledge, skills and competences (abilities) required by a professional, corresponding to these functions. The identified main professional functions, professional activities and tasks that a solid waste manager has to fulfill during the operation of a solid waste management facility, include:

- Solid Waste Facility Operational Management,
- Human Resources Management,
- Financial and Contractual Management,
- Environmental Aspects Management,
- Health and Safety Issues Management
- New Projects Management

For the technical operations and activities performed within a solid waste facility, separate qualifications modules were developed. Those qualifications modules include operations which are carried out in the following different solid waste management facilities:

- Transfer and Waste Sorting stations,
- Sanitary Landfills,
- Incineration Plants,
- Anaerobic Digestion Plants,
- Mechanical Treatment Plants,
- Recycling Facilities,
- Composting Facilities,

The developed, proposed qualifications are defined using learning outcomes, since learning outcomes are considered the criteria for the certification and performance-value reflected in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the common frame of reference levels of qualifications in the EU. Learning outcomes are further analysed in knowledge skills and competences descriptors. The designated knowledge skills and competences descriptors correspond to EQF level 6 and higher (for professionals showing advanced and highly specialized knowledge, skills and management of complex technical or professional activities - managers' level).

All developed qualifications modules can be easily accessed via the SWFM-QF website, under the "Qualifications Frame" menu.



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4. Waste Management Conference in Hungary

The III Waste Management Conference was held in Gödöllő, 19-20, March, 2014. The conference was organised by Szent István University, together with the National Waste Management Agency requested by the Ministry of Rural Development. The two-day professional event took place at the Knowledge Transfer Centre of the university, and was a good opportunity for the 300 participants to get up-to-date information among others on the main waste management trends for the period of 2014-2020, the actual public service pricing strategy, and the possibilities of the price compensations for the national waste management companies in Hungary. Presentations given by foreign lecturers gave an overview of the newest results, the present problems, the future possibilities and the determining trends of the waste management sector at an international level. Visiting the sections of the conference, professionals had the chance to exchange information regarding the good practices of the waste management sector not only in Hungary, but in the UK, Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Portugal, Romania, and Serbia. Mr. David Newman (ISWA president) and a number of members of the ISWA also participated in the programme.

5. Dissemination conference in Poland

Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute (IEP-NRI) will be organizing XII International Conference „Man, Health and Environment” in Warsaw on 11-12 September 2014.

During the conference project outcomes will be presented and widely discussed.

For more information please visit the conference website:

<http://www.konferencja.ios.org.pl/>

6. SWFM-QF 3rd meeting

During the 26th and 27th of June the 3rd Coordination meeting was held in Glasgow, Scotland. It was successfully organized by the ICERMS Ltd. During the meeting the project progress was presented and the next six months actions were planned.

The meeting's photos and presentations can be found at the project's website:

<http://www.swfm-qf.eu/main/?p=8648&lang=en>

7. Next planned actions

Shortly the final versions, taking into consideration the internal and external evaluations process, of the Harmonized Competence Frame and Info Training Tool Kit, will be ready and then translated into eight national languages.

Next Coordination Meeting (9th-8th of **October**) and the Final Conference 10th of **October** will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The purpose of the **Final Coordination Meeting** will be the discussion of the project status in each participating country, the on-going and future dissemination and exploitation activities, financial and administrative issues.

During the **Final Conference** the results of SWFM-QF project will be analytically presented, along with other related issues referring to solid waste management and managers' vocational training, to interested stakeholders, end users and the public

For more detailed information please visit dedicated website:

<http://www.swfm-qf.eu/conf/>

Please note that there is **no registration fee** required for participating the conference.