

T-GuIDE Newsletter



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T-GuIDE

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**T-GuIDE Training at
The British Museum**

T-GuIDE: Latest developments

Welcome to the fourth Newsletter of the T-GuIDE project, an innovative vocational training initiative for professional tourist guides, under development by a partnership of nine organisations within the framework of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme, "Leonardo Da Vinci".

Testing Phase 3, London, January 2015

The final test and review meeting was carried out by the T-GuIDE team and 3 qualified Tourist Guides in London, led by FEG, just after New Year. This was a practical field training session where tourist guides showed a group of young people with intellectual disabilities and their carer a selection of exhibits at The British Museum. The experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. The lessons learned will be incorporated in the T-GuIDE Training and Assessment Manuals.

T-GuIDE Conference: Brussels, 31 March 2015

SAVE THE DATE to attend the T-GuIDE conference in Brussels, where the results and future plans for T-GuIDE training will be presented and discussed. All are welcome.

More details and registration:

<http://www.t-guide.eu/?i=t-guide.en.events.1673>

Featured T-Guide partner:

Minster
Development
Centre



Delivering management, training and workplace training in the UK and Europe

The T-Guide project is about developing competences to enable experienced Guides to achieve a qualification which is not only consistent across Europe but which, it is hoped, will become internationally recognised.

Experienced guides will be able to have their existing skills and experience accredited through a process called *Accreditation of Prior Learning or Achievement* whilst at the same time developing specific vocational skills as set out in the Competences Manual which has been developed by Minster, with the T-Guide team. By acquiring these competences, tourist guides will be recognized as providing a unique service to people with intellectual disabilities or learning difficulties, enabling them to increase their enjoyment and participation in guided tours.

Structured vocational education started back in the 1980s with a recognition that each sector or skill needed its own recognised level of qualification and that, where they existed, the people to decide what this competence should be were the Trade Associations or Unions. They were tasked with developing their own standards, how they would be assessed and who would do the assessing.

The process of changing from a formal learning environment to workplace driven qualifications was a major change in thinking of how training would be delivered, where it would take place and how consistency would be maintained. The occupational standards have great value and utility within each industry sector.

Each competence is written as an objective and they are deliberately NOT precise so they can fit to most job roles within that occupational area. An **Assessor** guides the applicant as to the interpretation of the competence in order for the candidate's to provide evidence of his or her ability. Most of the countries in which vocational education has been implemented have recognised that they improve the effectiveness of the country's industry by introducing national standards to be explicit, agreed, widely accessible, flexible, progressive and testable. They continue to be supported by Governments and they cover the vast majority of the industrial and professional sectors of the economy. They are equally recognised within the **European Quality Framework** standards.

Although there are vocational standards for the Leisure & Tourism sector, as far as we know, there are none which cover tourist guiding with particular reference to guiding people with intellectual disabilities or disabilities in general, which is one of the reasons which makes this an important European Union *Development of Innovation* project.

The T-Guide Project contributes to European objectives by creating an inclusive society where everyone has equal opportunities to enjoy the prospects created by open access to tourism and the target group can avail themselves of a European-recognised qualification which demonstrates their professionalism in providing this open access.



**Leadership Training at Windsor Castle,
Photo: Minster Development Centre**

To achieve this we are developing **Units of Competence** which the candidates will be able to achieve by observation of their job role, being assessed by qualified assessors in the sector, and by recognition of their previous experience and knowledge. It will sit along-side but not replace any present qualifications they hold through formal, informal or blended learning. It will, therefore, provide a standard of individual benchmarking.

The competences have been developed in close collaboration with the experts – The Tourist Guides themselves, psychiatrists, psychologists, carers and stakeholders in each of the partner countries. They were consulted by focus groups, desktop reviews, direct consultation & communication and were involved in the testing phases of T-GulDE Training.

Background to the partner involved in developing the Competences Manual

Minster Development Centre started in 1994 when it was formed to deliver workplace qualifications totally in the workplace:
- *“No college, no attendance, we come to you”*.

We received the Duke of Edinburgh National Silver Royal Society of Arts Award in our first 12 months for *“delivering a vocational qualification in an innovative manner”*. We were one of the

first organisations to deliver vocational qualifications totally in the workplace, based on 30+ years of planning and delivering qualifications. Since then we have delivered to lots of different sectors, including amongst others:

- A Cathedral & Diocese of the Church of England – management qualifications
- Automotive industry – Rover and Volvo cars – management & administrative qualifications
- Small to medium enterprises (different sectors)
- The World Bank – community projects
- Egyptian Government – strategy to provide Skills Authorities.
- South African Government – strategy to provide Skills Authorities

European Commission funded projects:

- Qualifying on the Spot
- Exercises to Stimulate & Motivate volunteering
- Women Innovating Networking: creating and cross-fertilising knowledge on networks for women entrepreneurs,
- Empowering Citizenship for Active Aging
- T-GulDE.

More information:

www.minsterdevelopmentcentre.eu

T-Guide Conference

31 March 2015 **SAVE The DATE!**

A conference presenting the results of the T-Guide Lifelong Learning project.

The conference is open to:

- Tourist guides
- Managers, owners or staff of tourist destinations and attractions
- Organisations that arrange holidays, trips or events for people with learning difficulties and/or intellectual disabilities
- Families and friends of people with learning difficulties and/or intellectual disabilities.

Venue: Flemish Government Buildings, Auditorium, Boudewijnlaan 30, 1000 Brussels.

Time: 10:00 - 13:00 hours

Registration: Download the **WORD** document from the T-Guide website:

<http://www.t-guide.eu/?i=t-guide.en.events.1673>

Fill in one form per person and **return the form(s) by Email to:**

enat@accessibletourism.org



Brussels - Grand Place

At the conference, participants will be introduced to the T-Guide Vocational and Educational Training initiative, with presentations by EU representatives, stakeholder organisations and the project partners.

The T-Guide partners look forward to seeing you in Brussels!

In T-Guide Newsletter no. 5 we will profile another T-Guide partner organisation.










To subscribe to this Newsletter and our T-Guide e-Bulletins, please use the sign-up form here:

<http://eepurl.com/INQ2L>

Photos: ENAT, Minster Development Centre and FEG.



T-GuIDE Partners

Austria		LEBENSHILFE-GUV www.lebenshilfe-guv.at
Belgium		European Network for Accessible Tourism asbl. www.accessibletourism.org
France		European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations www.feg-touristguides.org
Italy		ASIS - Consorzio Cooperative Sociali www.consorzioasis.eu
Latvia		The Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations www.sustento.lv
Poland		Społeczna Akademia Nauk w Łodzi www.swspiz.pl
Spain		Fundación Pública Andaluza El Legado Andalusí www.legadoandalusi.es
Spain		Instituto de Formación Integral, S.L.U. www.ifi.com.es
United Kingdom		Minster Development Centre Ltd. www.minsterdevelopmentcentre.eu