



Input paper

on the EC report on the implementation of Directive 2003/59/EC relating to the initial qualification and periodic training of professional drivers

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The European project “ProfDRV: Professional driving – more than just driving!” (www.project-profdrv.eu), supported by the LLP/ LdV/ Dol and coordinated by DEKRA Akademie GmbH, DE) aimed to investigate professional driver training (generally and based on directive 2003/59/EC) in Europe from a vocational education and training (VET) perspective and to develop recommendations how reaching of the aims of the European directive on professional driver training can be facilitated with the application of the European Qualifications Frameworks (EQF) overall concept. The EQF is currently implemented all over Europe in order to make qualifications comparable across borders and to facilitate lifelong learning all over Europe. The implementation of directive 2003/59/EC in selected countries (AT, DE, ES, HU, IT, NL, UK) has been investigated for this purpose and possible solutions in order to adapt the implementation of directive 2003/59/EC to the requirements of the EQF have been drafted in the projects framework.

As one of its major results the ProfDRV project suggests the review of annex 1 of directive 2003/59/EC by describing annex 1 in terms of learning outcomes preferably by using the Europe-wide accepted EQF approach “knowledge”, “skills” and “competences” and, therefore, the definition of a common learning outcomes based minimum standard for the qualification of professional drivers in Europe. The ProfDRV core profile on professional drivers “knowledge”, “skills” and “competences” can serve as a reference for further considerations in this regard.

The ProfDRV results acknowledge the information and conclusion presented in the EC report on the directives implementation (COM(2012) 358 final, 12.7.2012) especially with regard to the heterogeneity of the implementation approaches applied by the different Member States. However, the ProfDRV project results suggest a different conclusion with regard to the assumption that directive 2003/59/EC *“has contributed to ensuring a common level of training for professional drivers in the European Union”* (COM(2012) 358 final, 12.7.2012, p.13).

The EQF recognises in its overall approach that *“Europe’s education systems are so diverse that comparisons based on inputs, say length of study, are impracticable”* (The European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning – leaflet, p.4). Similar to the stated criterion “length of study” also a “description of content input” as provided in annex 1 of directive 2003/59/EC is not sufficient in order to ensure the aspired comparability of qualifications. A strong output orientation as basis for comparability is, therefore, one of the fundamentals of the EQF that is built on widespread theoretical support (see also USING LEARNING OUTCOMES: European Qualifications Framework Series Note 4). The experiences gained

with the implementation of the strongly “input oriented” directive 2003/59/EC support the need for such a learning outcomes oriented description of qualifications. The information collected on the different national implementation approaches and systems does not allow for the assumption that they lead to a common minimum level of professional drivers abilities throughout Europe. This is primarily due to the determined differences in implementing training in terms of training programmes and methods applied (as also stated by EC report COM(2012) 358) as well as in the applied assessment/ testing procedures. This diversity is generally favourable, but the assumption that it leads to a common minimum level of professional drivers’ abilities is misleading. A common level of professional drivers’ abilities cannot be reached under these circumstances due to a missing standard defined in terms of learning outcomes preferably defined as “knowledge”, “skills” and “competences” as suggested by the EQF. Only the definition of a minimum qualification standard in such categories of learning outcomes can lead to real comparability and in the case of directive 2003/59/EC to reaching a common minimum qualification level of training for professional drivers in the European Union.

The ProfDRV results highly support and appreciate the flexibility and space for diversity offered by directive 2003/59/EC with regard to the implementation of the directive at national level. This allows the Member States to embed the directive into national law based on their national legislation, vocational education and training systems and overall national circumstances. Unfortunately, only a limited number of Member States made use of this flexibility in order to embed and interrelate the driver CPC into/with their formal vocational education and training systems. In a number of cases even parallel tracks have been opened for the directives implementation that have no or only very limited interfaces with the formal national VET systems (see Bacher & Nindl, 2012 for further information). That’s also why the driver CPC is in most cases not considered in the process of adapting and referencing qualifications to the currently established National Qualifications Frameworks in the course of the Europe-wide implementation of the EQF. This Europe-wide initiative aims to *“improve the transparency, comparability and portability of citizens’ qualifications issued in accordance with the practice in the different Member States”* (2008/C 111/01, p.12) and first and foremost to *“promoting lifelong learning and increasing the employability, mobility and social integration of workers and learners”* (2008/C 111/01, p.12) as associated also with a European initiative on the qualification of professional drivers throughout Europe such as directive 2003/59/EC.

Annexes:

- ProfDRV (2012). *EQF-compatible European core profile: Professional Driver (freight transport)*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/Downloads_front/ProfDRV_WP3_del12_profile_finale_EN.pdf (21/09/2012)

List of references:

- 2003/59/EC (DIRECTIVE 2003/59/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 15 July 2003 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers, amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 and Council Directive 91/439/EEC and repealing Council Directive 76/914/EEC)
- 2008/C 111/01 (RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning)

- *The European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning*. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/eqf/documentation_en.htm (21/09/2012)
- USING LEARNING OUTCOMES: European Qualifications Framework Series Note 4. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/eqf/documentation_en.htm (21/09/2012)
- Bacher, T. & Nindl, S. (2012). *2003/59/EC – standardised Europe-wide initial and continuous vocational education and training for professional drivers: Strategies, consequences, opportunities and threats*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/Downloads_front/WP6_Draft_Case_Study_201200716.pdf (21/09/2012)
- Ball, C. (2011). *Professional driving a heterogeneous field*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/Downloads_front/ProfDRV_WP3_del11_analysisreport_12_01_27.pdf (21/09/2012)
- Ball, C. (2012). *Vocational Education and Training Means to approach the Shortage of Professional Drivers in Europe*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/WP2_training_schemes/ProfDRV_WP2_del09_VETmeansshortage_v2.2.pdf (21/09/2012)
- Ball, C. Konings, H. & van Rijn, J. (2011). *VET schemes for professional drivers in Europe*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/Downloads_front/ProfDRV_WP2_del06_12_01_CB.pdf (21/09/2012)
- Konings, H. & van Rijn, J. (2011). *European Findings on VET for Professional Drivers*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/Downloads_front/ProfDRV_WP2_del08_prel.pdf (21/09/2012)
- ProfDRV (2012). *EQF-based standards for professional driver training in Europe (draft)*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/WP4_standards/ProfDRV_WP4_standards_all_12_04_03.pdf (21/09/2012)
- Wohlfarth, A. & Niegemann, H.M. (2011). *Analysis of professional truck drivers tasks as basis for an EQF compatible profile: A summary and discussion of results*. Available at: http://www.project-profdrv.eu/fileadmin/Dateien/Downloads_front/ProfDRV_WP3_del11_analysisreport_12_01_27.pdf (21/09/2012)

For further information on the project
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