

## Assessment and national report of Albania the existing training provisions of professionals in the Healthcare Waste Management industry

### REPORT: III



## DEVELOPING AN EU STANDARDISED APPROACH TO VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN HEALTHCARE WASTE

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## CHAPTER 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present report intends to describe the Vocational Qualification System in Albania which is quite a new system based on the law no. 8872 “For professional education and training in Republic of Albania” approved in 2002.

The Vocational Qualification System in Albania is overseen by the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Education. This system is composed by some state institutions, including National Council of professional education and training; National Vocational Education, Training and Qualifications Agency and State Inspectorate of Education and National Occupation Service.

Recently the education and training in Albania is getting a deserved attention for its role and responsibilities. It is also getting pertinent consideration from all partners, VET providers and beneficiaries. The National Vocational Education, Training and Qualifications Agency is established in 2007 based it performs most of the institutional duties related to VET, including frame-curricula, occupational lists and standards, assessment and certification for students, accreditation for VET providers, etc. This Agency's aim is to provide a further development of VET in Albania, mainly with regard to institutionalization and quality assurance on the system.

The Albanian Qualifications Framework is a national system for the qualifications' classification according to a number of criteria for different levels of learning. This framework aims to integrate and coordinate the national qualifications subsystems, and to improve the transparency, access, and quality of qualifications relevant to the job market and civil society.

The only functional accreditation body is National Center of Continuing Education for health professionals. This center is not part of the Vocational Qualification System, since its activity is related exclusively to the CME and all kind of professional development of doctors, and other health professionals after the higher education. The mandate of this center is to accredit these types of activities, but not to issue certificates or awards of VET.

Unfortunately, the National Occupational Standards is not yet an internalized concept of the Albanian Qualification System.



## CHAPTER 2 OVERVIEW OF THE VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

### 2.1 General description of the Vocational Qualification System

The Vocational Qualification System in Albania is quite a new system based on the law no. 8872 “For professional education and training in Republic of Albania” approved in 2002.

Vocational Education and Training in Albania is finally getting a deserved attention for its role and responsibilities. It is also getting pertinent consideration from all partners, VET providers and beneficiaries.

#### **Institutional frame :**

Accountable institutions for vocational education and training are:

- Ministry of Social Welfare
- Ministry of Education
- National Council of professional education and training
- National Vocational Education, Training and Qualifications Agency
- State Inspectorate of Education and National Occupation Service
- Institutions of the Albanian Qualification Framework
- Public and non public institutions defined by normative acts.

The National Vocational Education, Training and Qualifications Agency is established in 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2007 based on the Council of Minister’s decision no. 273/2006 and it performs most of the institutional duties related to VET, including frame-curricula, occupational lists and standards, assessment and certification for students, accreditation for VET providers, etc.

This Agency’s aim is to provide a further development of VET in Albania, mainly with regard to institutionalization and quality assurance on the system. The main functions of this agency are:

- Develops and revises the national register of professions, qualifications and the related levels and standards.
- Designs and revises the curricula of the professional qualifications.
- Develops and revises the training standards of trainers / teachers of VET.
- Defines the certification criteria for the VET and manages the national register of certificates.
- Accredits institutions that provide VET.
- Issues individual certificates for vocational qualifications.
- Guarantees that standards and competencies are suitable with the best international practices, especially with



European Qualifications Framework.

The Albanian Qualifications Framework is a national system for the qualifications' classification according to a number of criteria for different levels of learning. This framework aims to integrate and coordinate the national qualifications subsystems, and to improve the transparency, access, and quality of qualifications relevant to the job market and civil society.

The Albanian Qualifications Framework is implemented in the following areas:

The all levels of qualifications in all sectors of the education and training system including the secondary, vocational and higher education.

The all learning levels of qualifications, starting from the job and society requirements up to the necessary qualifications in higher academia levels and vocational education training.

The certification of the formal and informal learning results when the latter is certified.

### 2.3 Training Centers

Certification of non public institutions and organizations that provide Vocational Education Training activities is based on the criteria and requirements approved by Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education. The certification process is carried out by the National Licensing Center.

There are actually 10 Regional Public Centers of Vocational Training. These centers provide different training courses giving the priority to the marginalized groups of the society. Their main purpose is to help needy people to get involved in formal occupation versus the informal one.

There are other non public Training Centers or Institutes licensed by the National Licensing Center. The accreditation process of the qualifications' programs and curricula is responsibility of the National Agency of Vocational Education training and Qualifications. Based on the available information the accreditation procedures seem to be not yet applicable.

The only functional accreditation body is National Center of Continuing Education for health professionals. This center is not part of the Vocational Qualification System, since its activity is related exclusively to the CME and all kind of professional development of doctors, and other health professionals after the higher education. The mandate of this center is to accredit these types of activities, but not to issue certificates or awards of VET.

## 2.4 National Occupational Standards

Albania was a member state of the International Labour Organization from 1920 to 1967 and is again member since 1991. The country has ratified 44 ILO International Labour Standards (Conventions), including the eight fundamental Conventions.

At national level it is only the law “On regulated professions in Republic of Albania” , 2009 that defines the obligation for some professional categories such as nurse, doctor, dentist, pharmacist, physiotherapist, midwife, architect, veterinary, engineer to meet the criteria of professional practice related to the public interest protection, public and health, and to guarantee the professional standards in order to ensure that proper qualified professionals are recruited. By professional standards is meant mainly the deontology and ethic code principles, and not a set of National Occupational Standards developed and approved. This concept remains still not included in the Qualification Vocational System and Albanian Qualification Framework.

Based on the description in this report of the Vocational Qualification System scenario in Albania, it can be considered that this system exists mostly on paper rather than in practice. There are many efforts and interventions to be made in order to make it functional and effective.

