

LEONARDO DA VINCI Community Vocational Training Programme. Second Phase (2000 – 2006)

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Abstract

In this article, the second phase of the Leonardo da Vinci Community Vocational Training Programme (spanning between 2000 and 2006) is presented. By addressing the needs of individuals, enterprises and economies, the programme encourages transnational initiatives in the domain of training that promote and enable innovation. Leonardo da Vinci programme supports public and private organizations concerned with training and addressing vocational training issues.

In 1994 the European Union started and launched the Leonardo da Vinci Programme as a community programme of transnational cooperation for labour training.

The European Commission has coordinated and cofinanced this programme and made it operational for the European Union starting with 1995. In the wake of its positive results and with an aim to provide continuity to the attempts of integrating and finalising the vocational training initiatives of European countries, the European Union Council resolved in its Decision dated April 26 1999 to implement the second stage of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme. This phase is to span the interval between January 1 2000 and 31 December 2006.

As in its previous phase, Leonardo da Vinci II supports and supplements the vocational training policies of the Member States, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content and organization of vocational training. The programme's aim is to use transnational cooperation to improve quality, foster innovation and promote the European dimension of vocational training systems and practices.

Leonardo da Vinci takes account of the needs of both individuals and the wider economy. By developing knowledge, skills and competences, the programme fosters active citizenship and employability throughout Europe. In backing quality and innovation, the aim is also to help enterprises respond with confidence to technological and industrial change and to cope successfully with growth and competitiveness.

Leonardo da Vinci II has three central objectives, which are the cornerstone of the programme: to facilitate occupational integration, to improve quality of, and access to, training, and to develop the contribution of training to innovation. The details of the objectives are as follows:

a) to improve skills and competences, especially of young people, in initial vocational training at all levels. This may be achieved inter alia through work-linked vocational training and apprenticeship with a view to making it easier for people to get into (or back into) jobs.

b) To improve the quality of, and access to, continuing vocational training and the life – long acquisition of skills and competences with a view to developing adaptability, particularly in order to consolidate technological and organisational change.

c) To promote and reinforce the contribution of vocational training to the process of innovation, with a view to improving competitiveness and entrepreneurship, and also with the aim of creating new employment prospects. There also be a bigger emphasis on fostering cooperation between vocational training institutions (including universities) and undertakings (particularly SMEs).

The programme provides for five types of Community measure, which correspond to five specific types of activity. Mobility: support for transnational mobility projects for people undergoing vocational training, especially young people, and for those responsible for training. Pilot projects: support for transnational pilot projects to develop and transfer innovation and quality in vocational training, including actions relating to the use of information and community technologies in training. Within the pilot projects, special support will be given to a limited number of thematic actions. Language competences: support for projects to promote language and cultural skills in vocational training. Transnational networks: these aims to assemble pool and build on European expertise and innovatory approaches, improve the analysis and anticipation of skills requirements, and disseminate the outputs and results of networks and projects throughout the Union. Reference materials: comparison of data, surveys and analysis, observation and dissemination of good practice, in collaboration with Statistical Office (Eurostat) and the European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP).

The countries involved in the programme are: the 15 Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the 3 EFTA countries belonging to the EEA: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; the 13 countries that are applicants for European Union membership (specific details to be arranged): Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

The programme is aimed at a very wide audience: young people or adults who are undergoing training, in work or looking for a job.

Individuals (young people or adults undergoing initial training, or others) may receive a grant from the programme but cannot, as individuals, apply for funding for projects. Leonardo da Vinci is thus open to public and private bodies and companies, who are involved in training or concerned by vocational training issues, brought together within an international partnership.

This covers vocational training establishments, centres and bodies at all levels, including universities, research centres and institutions, undertakings, including SMEs and the craft industry, trade organisations (including chambers of commerce), social partners, local and regional bodies and organisations, non profit making organisations, voluntary bodies and NGOs.

The conditions of eligibility of a project proposal are described in detail in the guides drawn up for potential project promoters.

A minimum of four conditions must be met in order to qualify for funding for Leonardo da Vinci: the project must involve transnational cooperation. The European partnership must include three participating countries, one of which must be a Member State of the European Union. For projects relating to mobility or to language competences, two countries are sufficient, of which one must be a Member State of the European Union; the project must pursue one or more of the objectives of the programme and indicate the measure implemented; the project must be within the arranged timetable and relate to one of the priorities defined by the calls for proposals. The following two calls for proposals will be published in 2002 and 2004; the project must be cofinanced by a contribution from the promoter and the partners; the Community covers only part of the eligible expenditure.

“Leonardo da Vinci” Projects – transnational European partnerships for LIFE LONG EDUCATION
1997 – 2001

PROJECT TYPE		Number of projects	
		Total	CVT*
MOBILITY	1997-1998	83	61
	1999	56	44
	2000	73	38
	2001	67	31
PILOT PROJECTS	1997-1998	27	22
	1999	26	13
	2000	8	6
	2001	6	5
JOINT ACTIONS	2001	1	1
TOTAL		347	216

***CONTINUING VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Themes:

1.Acquisition of new competencies for:

- Fast integration in the knowledge society and economy;
- Easy access to information and training opportunities;
- Developing the entrepreneurial spirit;
- Industry development in fields of general interest (environment protection, food industry, agriculture, transport, water supply, etc.);
- Use of IT;
- Learning foreign languages.

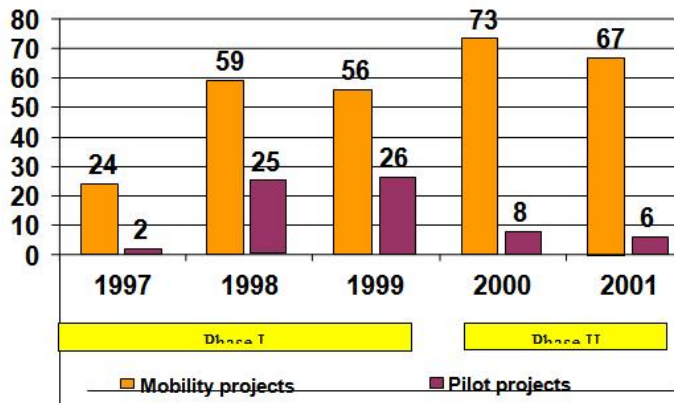
2.Management of investments in training human resources through:

- New systems of professional evaluation and certification;
- Analysis methodologies for training and qualification needs.

3.Foster the development of disadvantaged areas through:

- New centers for professional reconversion;
- Training systems for the SMEs;
- New centers for professional guidance.

DYNAMICS NUMBER OF “LEONARDO DA VINCI” PROJECTS PROMOTED BY ROMANIA
(1997 - 2001)



Valorisation of “Leonardo da Vinci” project results

- The efficient valorisation of the “Leonardo da Vinci” project results by the system of vocational training and first of all of good practice is highly required and is the obligation of both promoters and the national institutions in charge with the “Leonardo da Vinci” Programme.
- The generally favourable impact of Romanian “Leonardo da Vinci” projects works through the valorisation of these very project results.
- The valorisation of these projects is being carried out at both institutional and individual level.
- The valorisation of project results has multiple advantages: it contributes to the improved institutional image of projects participants, it develops stable and long term partnerships, and it has a favourable impact upon the attitude towards vocational training and work, a.s.o.
- Alongside the acquisition of vocational competencies properly speaking, project valorisation finds its print in its influence upon the openness and tolerance of beneficiaries towards other cultures and towards their attitude regarding European Union cooperation.