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## **BLUE KEP Project**

*BLUE Knowledge Exchange Program and integration of education systems in the Cross-Border area*

Priority Axis: Blue Innovation

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1** - Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area

01/01/2018 – 30/09/2019

**Budget:** € 921 K

Interreg Italy-Croatia 2014-2020



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## Project Objectives

1) to encourage standardization of technical schools curricula & knowledge mobility to support innovation

- > *outline, test and implement both standardized international education modules for technical education and shared schemes for mutual recognition of course credits*
- > *teachers' exchange; cooperation agreements among the involved schools; training programmes of the apprenticeships in companies*

2) to increase availability of trained professionals in targeted sector with mutually recognized skills

- > *standardize technical schools' curricula among Ita & Cro educational systems*
- > *International modules; shared schemes for mutual recognition of course credits*
- > *Italian & Croatian companies will be involved specific programmes of apprenticeship for students*

3) to improve CB cooperation among targeted blue economy systems, clusters & complementary specializations of ITA & CRO players of the quadruple helix (policy level, education, companies and young) in the ship/maritime sector



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## MAIN OUTCOMES

- 3 international modules developed and integrated in ordinary school
- 39 training programs for students
- 10 Teacher exchange and trainings
- 4 Cooperation Agreements among schools
- 5 Language courses delivered
- 1 tested tool for students' assessment

## TARGET GROUPS

- Nautical and technical schools  
and students
- SMEs
- Teachers
- Local Authorities



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## BACKGROUND

The BLUE KEP project builds upon the experience of the KEPASS, BLUEskills and DELMVET IPA Adriatic projects by creating synergies with their partners. In so doing, it capitalises their results.

**KEPASS** created a student mobility system for upper secondary schools with a view to harmonise education systems.

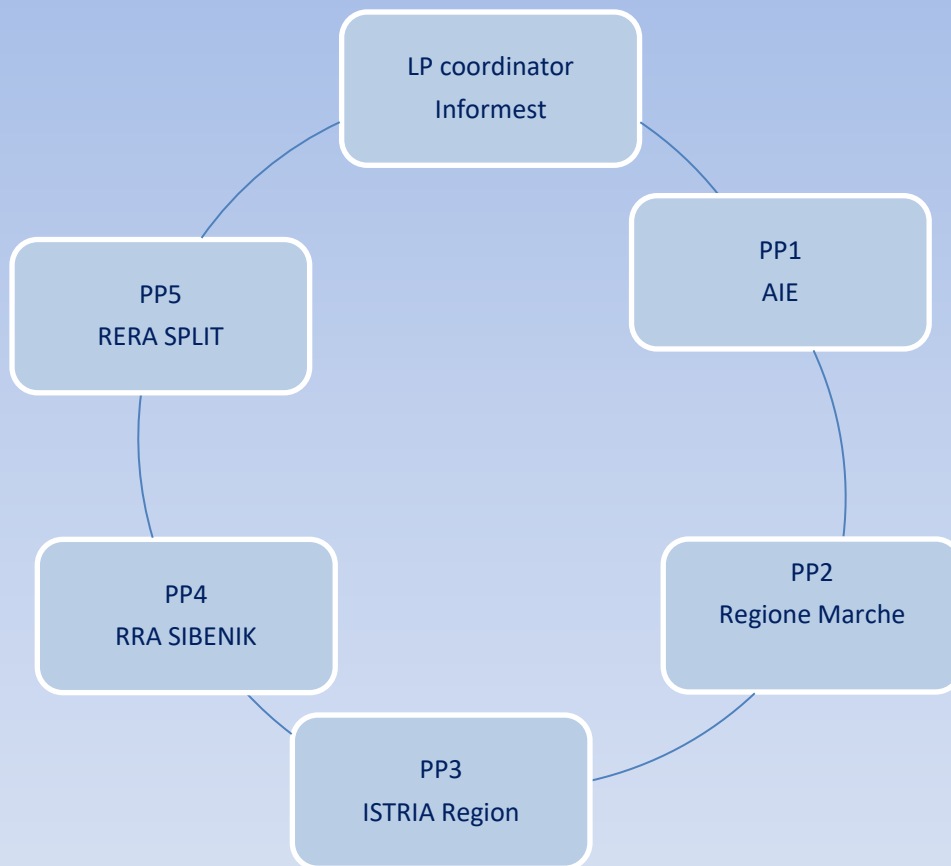
**BLUEskills** achieved a first version of a common assessment grid to assess students' skills.

**DELMVET** aimed at reforming VET systems and set guidelines for curricula preparation and teacher training.

The **Blue Economy's** value chain has an incredible potential for the development and growth of the whole Adriatic area. The BLUE KEP project was aimed at unlocking such potential by taking a concrete step towards the *harmonisation* and integration of *technical education systems* via standardised school curricula and common methods for the recognition of skills.

The project answered to a growing need of *specialised and skilled labour force* that are key to boosting the blue sector's competitiveness and innovation. Its target-oriented approach and the strict cooperation among the involved actors were crucial to favouring the valorisation of *cross-border clusters*, while providing an opportunity of *cultural exchange* between technical education systems, as well as paving the way for a more structured «*brain circulation*» in the cross-border area.

## Partnership





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## Capitalisation action

*KEPASS working approach in terms of improvement of reciprocal knowledge and standardization of educational programs and school systems will be exploited and implemented in ship/maritime sectors*

- > KEPASS feasibility study will be exploited to standardize educational programs and to create a system for mutual recognition of student skills and credits
- > KEPASS school assessment grid will be used as a starting point for creating BLUE KEP schools' accreditation criteria as its contents will be tailored to the specific characteristics of ship/maritime schools
- > KEPASS student selection grid will be exploited and tested by BLUE KEP and integrated. The framework for mutual recognition of skills and competences put in place by KEPASS will be revisited, integrated, tested and implemented on the basis of the educational specificities of nautical and technical institutes in order to create future workforce with common recognized skills and credits.
- > Following first example of KEPASS, shared international modules will be created, tested and integrated in the involved schools formal curricula during BLUE KEP implementation in order to pave the way for the standardization of the education programs.

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## Coherence of the Project

### EUSAIR - Pillar 1 - Blue Growth

- > SO to promote research, innovation and business opportunities in blue economy sectors, by facilitating the brain circulation between research and business communities and increasing their networking and clustering capacity.

### Croatia, FVG, Marche S3 (Smart Specialisation Strategy)

- > support innovation, technological transfer and competitiveness in the shipbuilding sector
- > synergies between education-vocational system and companies

### EUSALP macro – region strategy's Action Plan

- > first thematic policy area's (Economic growth and cooperation ) Action 3 which aims at improving the adequacy of labor market, education and training in strategic sectors

### EUSDR macro – region Strategy's Action Plan

- > Pillar C Building prosperity in the Danube Region. 2<sup>nd</sup> priority area “to support the competitiveness of enterprises, including clusters development”, where activities related to the development of joint programs for professional education together with enterprises and the reinforcement of cooperation between SMEs , educational and public sector

### Coherence of the Project

EU Blue Growth Strategy in the area of “Marine Knowledge” aiming to ensure the development of skills in the blue economy and closer cooperation between relevant actors from schools and the private sector to stimulate innovation and competitiveness

EU 2020 flagship initiative “Youth on the move” as the project aims at improving young people’s education and employability in order to reduce high youth unemployment and to boost innovation and competitiveness;

EU Commission’s “Rethinking Education” initiative as the project has the goal to improve the quality and relevance of skills formation and shape the future labor market

Croatia’s strategy for education, science, and technology as the project is designed to develop the education system in close cooperation with the private sector

Strategic Plan of the Region FVG 2014 – 2018, which actions related to employment policies and professional training concern the development of targeted training; support continuous training in companies, improving matching of training to professional profiles

Marche Region’s ERDF and ESF Operative Programme 2014 – 2020. Region's ERDF ROP foresees synergic interventions to support job growth and competitiveness of regional businesses by developing cooperation between the education sector and companies (Axis 1), and improving the internationalization of entrepreneurial firms (Axis 3)



### CB cooperation added value

> promotion of joint implementation of actions focused on shared needs of the Programme area in Blue Economy value chain (nautical, shipbuilding, maritime technologies), especially in terms of skills shortages, youth unemployment, lack of innovation and weak competitiveness

### Synergies

> capitalization KEPASS project, is synergic to BLUESKILLS and DELMVET IPA Adriatic projects, which actions were focused respectively on the integration of Education/VET system in the Adriatic area and on the development of methodological tools for the mutual recognition of educational and professional skills in Tourism.

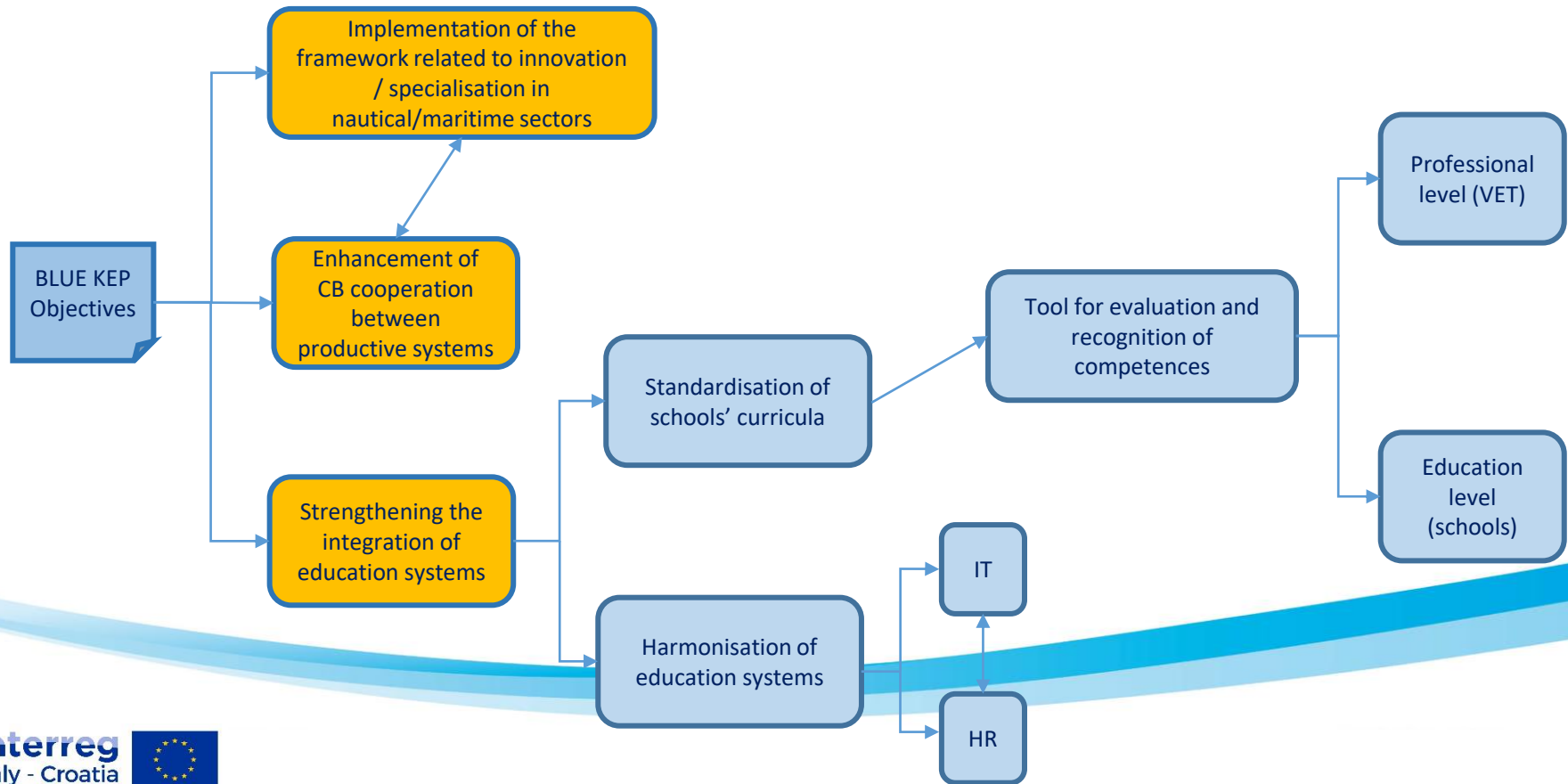
### Durability

> ensured by involving education ministries, which will validate project's results and by trust-based network among teachers and schools  
> durability of exchanges is inserted in schools' cooperation agreements. This system paves the way for similar cooperation projects funded by other national or EU funds

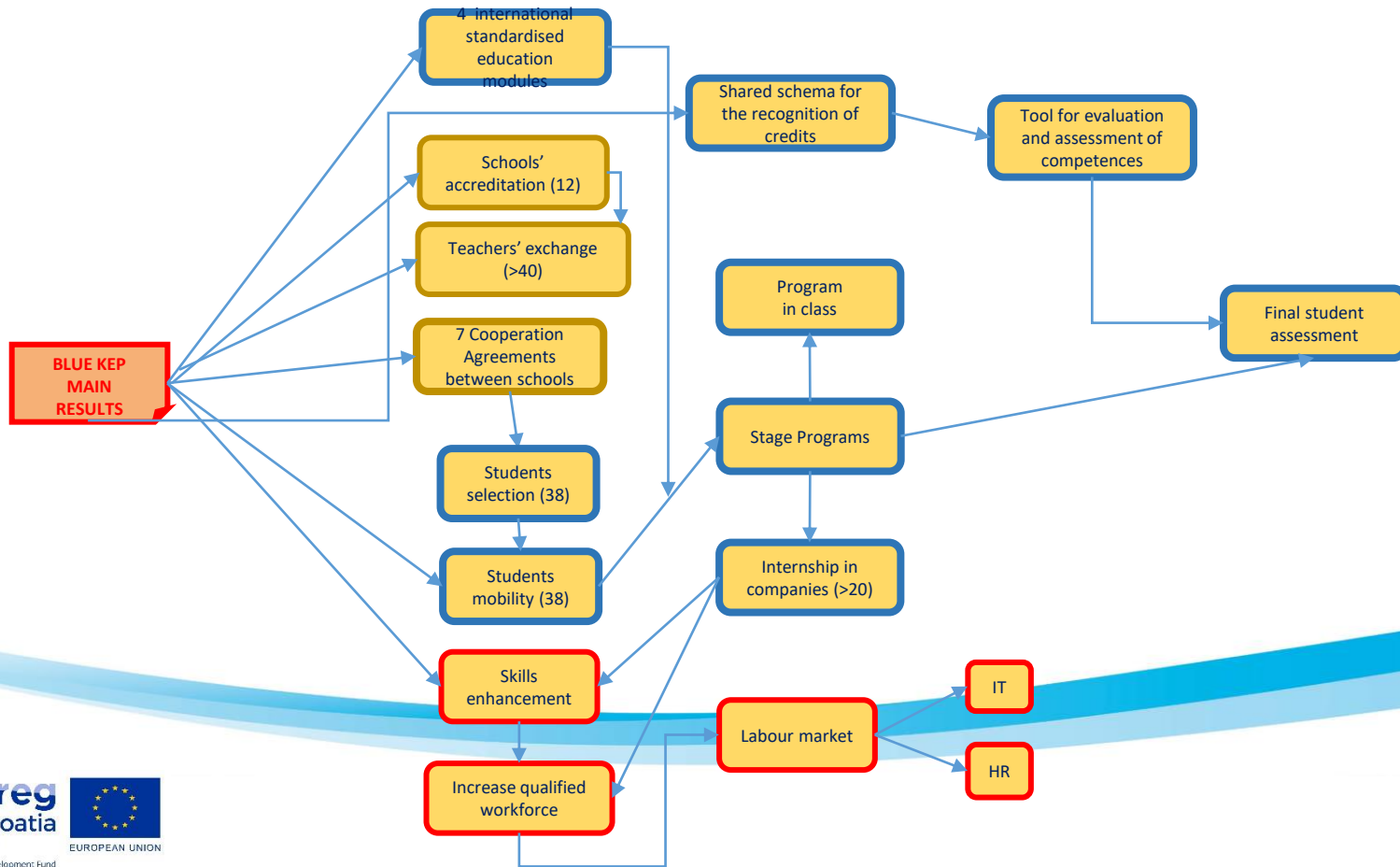
### Transferability

> ensured by the involvement of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE) which has an acknowledged experience in capitalization and dissemination of practices and policies aimed at the replicability and transferability of project's results  
> outputs and results achieved in BLUE KEP are tailored for technical schools in maritime/ship sector, but can be easily fine-tuned for other educational fields such as tourism, hospitality and catering training schools.

## BLUE KEP - BLUE Knowledge Exchange Programme and integration of education systems



# BLUE KEP - BLUE Knowledge Exchange Programme and integration of education systems



## BLUE KEP Timeplan

Year	2018												2019						
	Months	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun
N° project months (1,2,3...)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
<b>WP1</b>																			
1.1 Start-up activities																			
1.2 Day to day project management, coordination and internal communication																			
1.3 Steering and monitoring of the project implementation																			
1.4 Financial management																			
<b>WP2</b>																			
2.1 Start-up activities																			
2.2 Communication horizontal tools																			
2.3 Diffusion of BLUE KEP Call for schools																			
2.4 Launch and midproject events																			
2.5 Final event and capitalization of project results																			
<b>WP3</b>																			
3.1 Setting up a technical working group and technical school selection criteria																			
3.2 School accreditation and matching																			
3.3 Exchange among teachers																			
3.4 Setting student selection criteria																			
3.5 Companies' selection																			
<b>WP4</b>																			
4.1 Common modules and mutual recognition of credits																			
4.2 Mobility preparation																			
4.3 Student selection and mobility execution																			
4.4 Student final assessment																			

## WP1 Workplan management

	To do	Deadline
<b>Act. 1.1 Start-up activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Coordinator (PC) appointment</li> <li>▪ Steering Committee (SC) composition</li> <li>▪ WorkPlan presentation</li> <li>▪ Technical Committee (TC) set up</li> <li>▪ Partnership Agreement sign</li> </ul>	31/03/2018
<b>Act.1.2 Day-to-day project management, coordination and internal communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Daily project implementation &amp; coordination</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act. 1.3 Steering and monitoring of the project implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SC approvals, assessments, decisions</li> <li>▪ 4 SC to be organised</li> <li>▪ 4 TC to be organised</li> <li>▪ 3 P. Progress Activity Reports</li> <li>▪ Monitoring ensured by PC (2 Eval. reports)</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act.1.4 Financial management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Financial Manager (FM) appointment</li> <li>▪ 3 P. Financial Progress Reports</li> </ul>	30/06/2019



## WP2 Communication

	To do	Deadline
<b>Act. 2.1 Start-up activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication manager and staff</li> <li>▪ Target groups identification</li> <li>▪ Elaboration of the Communication plan</li> <li>▪ Definition of the Capitalisation plan</li> </ul>	31/03/2018
<b>Act.2.2 Communication horizontal tools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Website</li> <li>▪ Social network profiles</li> <li>▪ Promotional material</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act. 2.3 Diffusion of BK Call for schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Call of interest diffusion</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act.2.4 launch and Mid project events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organisation of Press conference</li> <li>▪ Organisation of promotional events</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act.2.5 Final event and capitalization of project results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organisation of capitalisation workshops</li> <li>▪ Closing conference</li> <li>▪ Guidebook</li> <li>▪ Opinion survey for feedback</li> </ul>	30/06/2019

## WP3 Establishing shared education system in nautic & maritime fields

	To do	Deadline
<b>Act. 3.1 Setting up a Technical Working Group and technical school selection criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Definition of a technical working group</li> <li>▪ Definition of a technical working group – grid for accrediting schools</li> </ul>	31/03/2018
<b>Act.3.2 School accreditation and matching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selection of the schools</li> <li>▪ Internal committee of teachers and mobility tutor selection</li> <li>▪ School matching</li> <li>▪ Cooperation Agreement</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act. 3.3 Exchange among teachers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop organization (built on Kepass)</li> <li>▪ Study visits (among matched schools)</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act.3.4 Setting student selection criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mobility posts – selection grid</li> <li>▪ Students calls</li> </ul>	30/06/2019
<b>Act.3.5 Companies' selection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Companies' selection</li> <li>▪ Closing conference</li> <li>▪ 39 Training program definition</li> </ul>	30/06/2019

## WP4 - Testing mobility and standardized curricula

Activities	Outputs	Period
4.1 Common modules and mutual recognition of credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 international modules</li> <li>1 Student assessment grid</li> </ul>	Jul 2018/Jun 2019
4.2 Mobility preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Language courses</li> <li>1 Mobility Plan</li> </ul>	Jul/Dic 2018
4.3 Student selection and mobility execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of 39 Students participating to mobility exchange</li> <li>39 Learning Agreements signed</li> <li>78 Monitoring Reports</li> </ul>	Jul 2018/Mar 2019
4.4 Student final assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>39 Student Assessment forms</li> <li>1 Tested evaluation grid</li> </ul>	Apr/Jun 2019





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**WP4 - Testing mobility and standardized curricula**

## **WP4 - Testing mobility and standardized curricula**

### **WP4 Objectives**

- a) to test solutions for standardized school curricula
- b) to encourage efficient mobility of students

### **How**

- by developing a set of international modules to be added to all accredited school's ordinary curriculum
- establishing shared students' assessment criteria for mutual recognition of credits and non formal competences acquired during the mobility

Work Group comprehends TWG, schools' IC members and MTs

## WP4 Activities

Year	2018												2019						
	Months	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun
N° project months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
WP1																			
WP2																			
WP3																			
WP4																			
Act. 4.1 Common modules and mutual recognition of credits																			
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## PROJECT RESULTS

The BLUE KEP Exchange Programme created cross-border tools and procedures for the standardisation of curricula of 12 accredited SCHOOLS, including 38 Mobility Training Programmes and 38 Learning Agreements and 65 Mobility Certificates.

These schools officially undertook inter-institutional agreements as to provide a quality training programme, including 4 international training modules created ad hoc, while recognising credits across the borders. By means of cooperation, SCHOOLS improved knowledge of their different education systems and laid the bases for building long-lasting and trust-based relationships.

The BLUE KEP project created mobility and traineeship opportunities for 19 Italian and 19 Croatian STUDENTS, and certified their acquired skills by referring to European standards and instruments. Students acquired knowledge, skills and competences, that were created transnationally and that are deemed to increase their employability prospects.

The project also supported the mobility of the 27 TEACHERS that accompanied the students in hosting countries and certified their contribution to the management and implementation of the mobility exchange. 43 TEACHERS in total, 19 from Croatia and 24 from Italy, had a chance of building a transnational network to exchange ideas, experiences and to identify good practices, while collaborating to the creation and recognition of transnational skills.

The BLUE KEP project strengthened the cross-border cooperation among targeted blue economy clusters, while producing a positive impact on 20 involved COMPANIES', which international dimension and attractiveness were enhanced. Last but not least, the project reinforced the synergies between the business sector and the education system, strengthened SCHOOLS' capacity to match labour market needs and gave COMPANIES an opportunity to contribute to building a better skilled future work-force.

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**BLUE KEP Project**  
**Project management and**  
**coordination of activities**

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*Thanks !*

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