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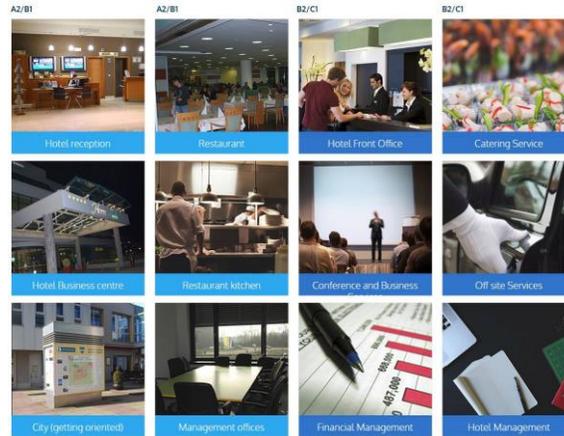
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*Language skills and
intercultural issues in the
hospitality industry: unity
in diversity in the EU
labour market*



Contemporary world shows a change in the employability patterns and skills needed in the future. Cedefop's latest skill supply and demand forecasts (2014) highlight Europe's employment challenge indicating that the most job opportunities will be in services, and point to a rising trend towards high-skilled jobs. Moreover, the increasing tourism flows, mobility for study and professional reasons as well as global migration processes have placed Europe in a previously unknown situation in which multilingualism is becoming not a desired state but a vital necessity. Language skills, intercultural and digital competences are important employability skills in the current situation, especially in tourism and hospitality sector. This also requires new innovative ways for developing VET learners' employability skills to be competitive in the changing labour market and contribute to cohesive society. This idea lies at the core of the current project, the stimulus for which was our previous project „Key Skills for European Union Hotel Staff” (more on the project webpage: <http://language4hotel.eu/>) in which we focused on developing language course for hospitality industry employees in 12 languages (the course is available on: <http://esolams.si/elearning/>).

The new Erasmus+ project “Language skills and intercultural issues in the hospitality industry: unity in diversity in the EU labour market” is intended to elaborate and put forward the results attained in the „Key Skills for Hotel Industry Staff” project and by attracting new partners it is extending the scope as well and bringing the results a step further.



The project aims at creating an interactive blended learning language course „Unity in Diversity” comprising on-line learning materials available on the Moodle Learning platform and face-to-face interactive materials incorporating case studies, games, problem-solving tasks, videos, etc. targeted at developing VET learners' language, intercultural and digital competence, creativity, problem-solving skills and flexibility. The complete course will consist of three courses:

1) a new interactive A1 language learning course in 16 languages (CZ, DE, EN, ES, FR, GR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, RO, RU, SE, Si, TR) containing such modules as “Welcome”, “Hotel”, “Restaurant”, “Professional skills”;

2) A2/B1 language course extended to 16 languages comprising such modules as “Hotel Reception”, “Restaurant”, “Restaurant Kitchen”, “City”, “Hotel Business Centre” and “Management Offices”, the first two also as smartphone apps, the module “City” accompanied by 3 interactive maps and 3 inside hotel maps;

3) B2/C1 intercultural English language course comprising 8 modules “Hotel Front Office”, “Catering Service”, “Hotel Management”, “Conference and Business Services”, “Off-site Services” and “Financial Management”, an intercultural module revealing cultural sensitivities of the nine partner countries and nine country modules featuring the main tourist information required for work; the course will contain case studies, videos, on-line modules and face-to-face problem-based tasks.

The project outcomes will be beneficial to different education institutions, tourism and hospitality industry employees and anyone wishing to raise their intercultural language competence and it is financed by the Erasmus+ program.