



INNOVATIVE QUALIFICATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AND  
ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION IN BUILDING SECTOR

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## ICARO

**ICARO** is an International project that aims at training a new generation of site technicians able to respond to the challenges imposed by new technologies and new regulatory framework in the building sector. There is a need for a generational change, steering the young and unemployed towards qualified professions. The gender issue will also play a central role: only 10 per cent of graduates in vocational training in the building sector are women, we want this percentage to increase rapidly.

The **ICARO** project will have a positive impact on youth employment, promoting high quality training that is appealing and relevant for the labour market.

The project partners are 3 national vocational training centres operating in the building sector (FORMEDIL, FLC, VSRC), a Regional centre (FLC ASTURIAS), a Provincial centre (IIPLE), a European professional association (ACE), a Chamber of Commerce (PANEVEZYS CHAMBER) and a University (ALMA MATER – UNIBO).

Networking will be essential to achieve the objectives described, with the development of a methodology to enhance certification and qualification schemes and a more efficient use of European tools in order to render the same more transparent.

The objectives of **ICARO** are essentially three:

- revitalize the building sector by means of a profound generational turnover, steering the young and unemployed towards qualified professions;
- reverse the trend that sees few women employed in construction;
- increase employment possibilities by incorporating work-based learning in the training process of companies.

With **ICARO** we wish to improve the planning of training activities that lead to the VET qualification at a European level involving students, enterprises and the system of professions. Work transition and apprenticeships must become the paradigm of training so as to introduce elements of flexibility within the curricula. In this scenario the experience of WBL plays a strategic role.

Work and training policies will be in constant correlation through the establishment of a permanent forum.

In short, **ICARO** will develop a combined qualification of “Worksite Technician”, which refers to a multi-functional technical profile able to supervise activities on the building site, coordinate the building and/or renovation process, follow the planning, management and supervision of works, optimizing the human resources involved.

The impact of the project will be particularly relevant in the 3 countries taking part in the project: Lithuania, Spain and Italy.

## In Rome the Kick-off meeting of the ICARO Project

On February 26th and 27th the kick-off meeting of the **ICARO** Project – Innovative qualifications for technological and organizational innovation in building sector, took place in Rome at the Formedil headquarters.



The project led by Formedil has as its partner: FLC Madrid, FLC Asturias, VSRC Vilnius, Alma Mather Studiorum UNIBO, Panevezys CCIC, Conseil des Architectes d’Europe, IIPLE Bologna. During the meeting the project was illustrated and the partner discussed about the various phases and tasks that will be up to each of them.

On the second day, other useful and complementary European projects were presented by the partners to the **ICARO** project; FLC Madrid has illustrated Women can Build and Construction Blueprint, while the IIPLE of Bologna the TRANStoWORK project.

The construction industry suffers from a lack of skilled labour and at the same time the new skills required by the market are not satisfied by the existing training offer, with the result that

companies have difficulty in finding workers with skills that meet the actual needs of the new labour market.

The **ICARO** project identifies in the site manager a key figure on which to work to define a training and qualification path that includes the new skills, in particular those related to the following areas: energy efficiency, digitization and transversal skills.<sup>[1]</sup> The project, which will last two years, is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ – Joint Qualification and Vocational Education and Training VET program.

## Formedil introduced ICARO to SOMExNet European partners

On 28th and 29th April the 4th SOMExNet Erasmus+ Project Meeting was held in Rome, hosted by Formedil. The objective of the project is to create an App that can facilitate mobility in the building sector. During the second day Formedil introduced to Somex European partners the project **ICARO** - Innovative qualifications for technological and organizational innovation in building sector, which aims to develop a new qualification and a new training path for the building site technician.



## Ace's Dissemination of the ICARO project

ACE have been promoting **ICARO** project through several communication media including ACE website, newsletters, social media and events with members, partners and other Erasmus+ project such as BIMzeED. This work have reached 2.850 people through newsletters, 1.834 people on social media to-date and 100 architects on ACE events. ACE have raised awareness about the project aims and expected results among industry member and stakeholders.

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