



ECOPRISE

Certification Scheme

Task 5.6



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1 Scope

This certification scheme specifies the procedure of how the competence of persons in the field of “Ecovillage Design Education for entrepreneurial purposes”, is being certified by ECQA GmbH.

The certification organization ECQA GmbH is an Austrian company, which is 60% owned by the non-profit organization European Certification and Qualification Association (ECQA).

The object of certification is exclusively / solely the competence of natural persons.

The certification is largely based on the principles of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17024:2012-07 Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies certifying persons.

2 Requirements for competence

2.1 Competence Profile

The main competence profile looks as follows, and is divided into 4 main Modules, for the learner to go through on their own pace.

- Digital skills for better visibility and competitiveness of organizations,
- Green skills for environmental regeneration,
- Resilience skills for designing /planning and diversifying the offer of social, cultural and educational activities in a non-formal approach,
- Entrepreneurial skills for entrepreneurship and innovation skills, creativity, problem-solving and resource management.

2.2 Knowledge and skill requirements

After working through the training material, the certification will make sure that you are capable of the following:

Module 1:

- Define the concept of sustainable entrepreneurship and explain its core purpose.
- Recognize the role of digital tools in supporting sustainable business practices.

- Identify the basic functions of digital content creation and ethical marketing.
- Describe key principles of data protection and responsible data use in entrepreneurship.
- Understand how digital platforms can support networking, collaboration, and community building.

Module 2:

- Engage in practical projects pertaining to renewable energy, climate change, waste reduce, green and sustainable solutions,
- Collaborate on sustainability initiatives,
- Conduct fieldwork and research,
- Apply systems thinking to environmental challenges,
- Develop strategies for renewable energy, waste management, and ecosystem restoration.

Module 3:

- Contextualize Resilience, distinguish macro-, community- and personal-level resilience using strategic foresight and ecovillage frameworks.
- Design Holistic Programs and Initiatives: Plan non-formal social, cultural and educational activities grounded in regenerative, permaculture-based design (resource mapping, zoning, ethics), as well as business activities that engage participants with nature's standards.
- Apply Core Resilience Skills, using systems thinking, critical/creative problem-solving, self-management and adaptive strategies to address real-world challenges sustainably and equitably in the personal and professional sphere.

Module 4:

- Demonstrate an understanding of core entrepreneurial skills, including opportunity recognition, risk-taking, and problem-solving.

2.2.1 Module 0 (Abbrev.M0) – Introduction to Digital Skills

- M0.1 Digital Skills Intro

- M0.2 Green Skills Intro
- M0.3 Resilience Skills Intro
- M0.4 Entrepreneurial Skills Intro
- M0.5 Permaculture Ethics & Principles
- M0.6 Ecovillage Design Education
- M0.7 Regenerative Development
- M0.8 Circular Economy
- M0.9 Regenerative Business Model
- M0.10 Ecopreneurship
- M0.11 Systemic Thinking and Design
- M0.12 Critical & Exploratory Thinking

2.2.2 Module 1 (Abbrev.M2) – The Technological & Network Dimension (4 ECTS)

- M1.1 Common Digital Content Creation
- M1.2 Safety & Data Protection
- M1.3 Digital Tools
- M1.4 Technological skills Technological skills for cooperation and networking

2.2.3 Module 2 (Abbrev. M2) – The Environmental Dimension (4 ECTS)

- M2.1 Renewable energy
- M2.2 Recycling and upcycling
- M2.3 Sustainability education
- M2.4 Sustainable Management
- M2.5 Green Skills

- M2.6 Holistic approach to nature and natural systems
- M2.7 Skills in restoring and rehabilitating natural ecosystem

2.2.4 Module 03 (Abbrev. M3) – The Social and Cultural Dimension (4ECTS)

- M3.1 Systems thinking
- M3.2 Critical thinking
- M3.3 Problem Solving & Creative Thinking
- M3.4 Communication Skills
- M3.5 Conflict resolution
- M3.6 Group dynamics
- M3.7 Self management
- M3.8 Social inclusion
- M3.9 Empowerment of marginalized groups
- M3.10 Work ethics and social structures
- M3.11 Well-being (Personal Development)
- M3.12 Adaptability/forward thinking
- M3.13 Community engagement

2.2.5 Module 04 (Abbrev. M4) – The economic dimension, entrepreneurship and innovation (4 ECTS)

- M4.1 Enterprise and innovation
- M4.2 Business development
- M4.3 Financial knowledge
- M4.4 Marketing

- M4.5 Growth Mindset
- M4.6 Innovation and social impact measurement tools
- M4.7 Creativity
- M4.8 Openness to the Environment
- M4.9 Ethical and Sustainable Thinking
- M4.10 Skill to effectively deal with bureaucratic processes
- M4.11 Networking Skills
- M4.12 Activism skills and policy engagement
- M4.13 Risk and crisis management

2.2.6 Module 05 (Abbrev. M5) – Practical Module (4ECTS)

- PT1 Application of gained skills
- PT2 Permaculture Skills
- PT3 Sustainable agricultural skills

3 Requirements for admission to the examination

Prerequisite for admission to the examination is:

- Successfully gone through each respective learning Module in the MOOC environment
- For the Practical task, students must have received the ECQA Module certificate for Module 1-4 beforehand.

4 Multiple-Choice Exam

The examination is done in writing as a multiple-choice test online. The exam questions are randomly generated from a pool of more than 250 questions in total, from the four subject areas as per section 2.2.2 to 2.2.5. The introductory and Practical Module don't have a multiple choice exam. Each Module exam will provide 4 questions per sub-unit. E.g. Module 1 has

4 sub units, which would mean the student gets 16 questions at the exam.

The maximum duration of the written exam is set at 60 min, per Module.

Students can take up to three Module exams at once.

In addition, each module has a pre-assessment for the trainee to assess their level of knowledge, conducted with multiple choice questions. Those questions are different from the ones used in the actual exam.

The Introductory module and module 5 have no pre-assessment.

5 Practical Task

The course consists of multiple choice questions, as well as self-assessments along the learning path. However, in Module 5 of the course, learners will undergo a practical exercise. This practical exercise will be graded and checked during the online learning phase. Grading guidelines have been developed by partners accordingly. 4 case-study project works are necessary to assess learners' knowledge.

6 Evaluation Criteria

6.1 Multiple-Choice Exam

Each question is scored with a maximum of one point each. There are several answer options per question. For each Module at least 70% of the total score must be achieved.

6.2 Practical Task

Each practical task will have a set of pre-developed evaluation grid, where learners' tasks are checked against. Having an evaluation grid also allows external evaluators to check the practical tasks in the future. This is one step to facilitate the projects, sustainability.

6.3 Overall assessment and examination repetition

To pass the overall examination for getting the full certificate, at least 70% must be achieved (all Modules must be passed) and the practical tasks must be positively assessed.

7 Issue and validity of certificates

The successful evaluation of the initial certification examination, according to section 5, is a prerequisite for the issuance of a certificate.

The certificates are valid for 5 years.

8 Recertification

8.1 Criteria for renewal of the certificate

To renew the certificate, the certificate holder must fulfil one of the following criteria:

- The certificate holder must retake the exam.
- The certificate holder must hand in a written report stating the use of the skills in a project/work environment proven by the school/university/company.

7.2 Issue of the certificate

After fulfilling all the criteria, according to 7.1, the certificate is renewed for 2 years.

7.3 Deadlines

Recertification must take place before the certificate expires. In exceptional cases, recertification may also take place after expiry of the certificate. In this case, the following conditions apply:

- If the recertification takes place after the expiration of the validity of a certificate within a period of maximum 6 months, the recertification shall be carried out in accordance with the criteria and process specified in Section 7.1. Otherwise, an audit to the extent of the initial certification shall be performed in accordance with Section 5.

- The validity of the certificate is always based on the date of initial certification. This means that the date of the initial certification is always taken as the starting point, regardless of the recertification date.

