

# YES Employability

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[www.yesemployability.eu](http://www.yesemployability.eu)

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## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the official newsletter of the YES Employability Project. The scope of this newsletter, published by the Institute of Tourism Studies (Malta) is to keep the partners in this project and stakeholders in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry updated on the latest endeavours of this project as well provide news related to training, education and employability in this most important economic sector.

The newsletter will also be available on the project website at [www.yesemployability.eu](http://www.yesemployability.eu)

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## The YES Employability Project Officially Launched

The *YES Employability – Young Europeans, Skills for Employability in Tourism* project was successfully launched on Friday April 30 2010 during a conference held at the Corinthia St. George Hotel, St. Julians, Malta.

The two-year project, aimed at promoting transparency and recognition of competencies and qualifications across Europe in the tourism sector, is financed by the European Union as part of the Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Programme.

The leading partner of the Project is the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) which hosted the launch conference and the first steering committee meeting held the day before.



The conference was addressed by the Hon. Dolores Cristina, Minister for Education, Employment and the Family, Ms Claire Zammit Xuereb, Chairperson of the Institute of Tourism Studies, Mr James Calleja from the Malta Qualifications Council, other local speakers and representatives of the partners in the project.

The project proposes to tackle the need of the Tourism Education and Vocational Training sector for a workable system of validation, transfer and recognition, of skills and competencies achieved during formal, informal and non-formal circumstances, expressed in transferrable units, and that can be linked to national and European frameworks presently in use.

The YES Project includes eight organisations and institutions from Central European and Mediterranean countries with ITS as the lead partner. These include the Centre for Advanced Studies in Tourism (Italy), ARTES srl (a research firm from Italy), the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, the Portuguese Association of Hotel Directors, SOFATI (a research firm from Portugal), the Technical Institute of Larnaca and the Cyprus Chefs Association.



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## Survey on training needs in Italian tourism industry

In April 2010, Federalberghi and Consorzio Format published a preview of the results of a survey on the training needs of the Italian tourism industry.

The objective of the initiative, sponsored by Comitato Nazionale Attività Stagionali, was to provide useful information to support public and private training policy.

Approximately 1,000 Italian tourist accommodation companies participated in the survey.

The training actions that aroused most interest concerned web marketing and quality, which were examined closely by respectively 77% and 75% of those responding to the specific questions. Foreign languages and customer care followed with respectively 69% and 66% of respondents.

A significant degree of interest was also expressed in relation to management issues (management control: 65%; organization: 63% revenue management: 63%) and the area of hygiene and safety (Safety at Work: 62 % First Aid: 60%; HACCP: 58%).

For more information, visit the website of For.Te. - Inter-Professional Fund for Continuous Training in the Tertiary Sector [www.fondoforte.it](http://www.fondoforte.it)

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## ReferNet Malta holds 2<sup>nd</sup> general consortium meeting



On Tuesday 15th June 2010 the Institute of Tourism Studies hosted the 2nd general consortium meeting of the ReferNet Malta, a network which provides information on National Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems and policies.

The meeting discussed issues related to vocational and educational training in Malta.

Refernet was created by CEDEFOP in 2002 to provide information on VET systems and policies in EU Members States, Iceland and Norway. This information is displayed in CEDEFOP databases and is used for comparative studies. At country level it gives valuable insights into national VET systems.

ITS is a member of the Consortium. The Malta Qualifications Council is the National Refernet Coordinator and Consortium leader.

More information at [www.refernet.org.mt](http://www.refernet.org.mt)

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## Portuguese Tourism Confederation supports Protocol Training for Entrepreneurs

The Portuguese Tourism Confederation (CTP) is one of the signatories of the Protocol Training for Entrepreneurs, signed at the Belem Cultural Centre and sponsored by the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, with the aim of promoting the acquisition and upgrading of skills related to business management.

For Adília Lisboa, general secretary of the CTP, "This protocol is one more tool that entrepreneurs have been given to update their knowledge according to the demands of modern society and the current market, based on the experience gained throughout his business life".

The plan includes two types of training: Skills in Management - Level Base and Skills in Management - Advanced Level, with a component in the area of theoretical and practical training and individual counseling.

### Project Partners



## Taste Portugal, the new challenge of Turismo de Portugal

Aiming towards increasing visibility, recognition and perception of Portuguese Gastronomy (national and international), the Tourism of Portugal launched the programme "Taste Portugal", which includes genuine products of high quality hand-made by the finest recognizable chefs.

This program, coordinated by the president of Portuguese Gastronomy Academy (APG), José Bento dos Santos, is made by a number of initiatives, with the goal to consolidate Portugal as a "must" gastronomic destiny.

This new program will have an interactive website dedicated to gastronomy and national wines at [www.taste-portugal.com](http://www.taste-portugal.com).

Tourism of Portugal schools will offer new management and pastry production courses, cuisine management and production in English and training in reference restaurants. The best teachers will be hired to teach in these schools, and programs will be made in order to become specialized in wine, olive oils, fish confection and coffees, also aimed to non-professional students.

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