

PaintingSkillsAcademy



Memorandum of Understanding for Further Collaboration

UNIEP and PSA Partners



a. Introduction

The painting trade in Europe is facing a multitude of central challenges. The main ones being that:

- Vocational training must become more attractive to young people so that more of them will want to train and work in the craft.
- Insufficient knowledge, skills and competences inevitably lead to poor working practices and economic damage.
- Vocational training is poorly developed in the European context, despite the emphasis on quality workmanship in all countries.

PaintingSkillsAcademy (PSA) addresses these challenges and ensures vocational training for the European painting trade that is oriented towards the challenges and requirements of the European labour market.

b. Rationale

PaintingSkillsAcademy (PSA) offers vocational qualifications at all levels of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). It thus supports the employability and professional development of qualified, highly skilled and mobile painters in the European labour market.

With a variety of offers for further and upgrading qualifications, for vocational preparation and for adaptation to new needs the PSA ensures uniform quality standards at a consistent and comparable European level.

PSA courses are offered in the form of seminars, workshops and at the work place - their duration varies depending on the content. They also include where appropriate, digital and green skills achievement and work placements as part of funded European mobility activities.

For longer training periods, validation and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) procedures ensure appropriate access to courses. All courses, from one-day seminars to whole training periods, are supported by certificates issued by the European umbrella organisation UNIEP. This ensures sectoral recognition in Europe.

All PSA training courses are approved and monitored by a committee of experts at UNIEP.

c. Terms of Reference

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a voluntary partnership agreement in which the terms for working together within the PSA are agreed to by partners from different countries. It is a commitment to the future for the PSA.

The MoU is signed by institutions that are providing education, training, placements and/or assessment, validation and recognition of previous work experience in the painting crafts in Europe.

All partners agree on the concept of the PSA as described in the rationale. In this agreement all partners accept each other's status as vocational school, VET provider, competent body, intermediate organisation, VET stakeholder, research organisation and/or company and agree on common criteria and procedures for the implementation of the PSA. The present MoU contains the following elements:

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d. General Objectives

The MoU is based on the following objectives for further cooperation between UNIEP and the PSA partners. This includes:

- the appointment of institutions where PSA courses are provided on the basis of the agreed PSA standards;
- the appointment of competent persons who can offer quality-assured PSA training courses;
- the nomination of experts to participate in the committee of experts at UNIEP;
- the intention to further develop the content of the PSA and to support and promote it with dissemination activities in the countries;
- agreeing to the matrices and procedures used in the PSA for assessment, documentation and certification of what has been learned in the courses.

e. The MoU in Operation: Roles and Responsibilities

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f. Status of the Memorandum of Understanding

UNIEP and PSA-partners acknowledge the MoU provisions are not legally enforceable, but rely on the spirit of cooperation between the signing institutions. This Agreement is not intended to override the established procedures and delivery models of national VET systems.

It is the intention of all signatories to add a European component to the existing models and procedures in the countries through the forms of cooperation and quality standards agreed in the partnership, thus raising the level of cooperation in the sector.

g. Review of this Memorandum of Understanding

The MoU will be reviewed three years from its commencement, and every three years thereafter. The MoU may be amended at any time by agreement in writing of the Parties.

h. Entering the partnership

The PSA partnership actively welcomes new partners. It is the decision of UNIEP to involve new partners in the PSA partnership and to introduce them to the PSA rules and procedures.

i. Dispute Resolution

Where any dispute arises under this MoU, UNIEP and PSA-partners will take all necessary steps to resolve the dispute expeditiously by mutual agreement, using the following procedures:

- initial discussions between relevant partners
- if not resolved, then discussions between partners and UNIEP

j. Language

All partners receive a signed copy of this MoU in English language.