

Using new materials requires special tools, new instruments and new skills

"The introduction of new vehicle materials [in the automotive sector] such as aluminium, carbon and UV paint require special tools, instruments and increased training requirements as well." - says a report from Boston Consulting Group, "The European Aftermarket Landscape".

The lack of qualified personnel in the manufacturing sector is one of today's problems for the industry and car body repair area doesn't make any exception from it. TWI identified this need; decided to investigate the situation and provide impactful results for the market. Therefore, along with EWF, CESOL and ISQ as partners, a new Erasmus+ project was submitted, by TWI, to the Erasmus+ National Agency in the UK, which has now been approved.

In this project, TWI is the Project Coordinator, in direct contact with the National Agency from the UK. EWF is the European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting, with a Training and Qualification network covering 30 member countries that will be essential in the implementation and dissemination of CARBOREP results. The welding institutes of the UK (TWI), Portugal (ISQ), and Spain (CESOL), all have a strong knowledge and expertise in training and qualification at a sector-based level.

The project has a duration of 36 months and aims at avoiding the skills mismatch of the employers of companies involved in car body repair processes. This will be done by developing a harmonized training course of personnel involved in this activity, focusing on large enterprises and SMEs, in different European countries, and by creating the European Car Body Repair Technician curriculum, associated training materials and examination scheme.

On the 6th of October the first meeting of this new Erasmus+ project took place in Cambridge, in which all the members of the consortium participated. The first meeting was based on discussions related with the project aims, its objectives and the next steps

The objectives will be achieved through the creation of a harmonized curriculum for the training of personnel involved in car body repair. For this purpose, at the start of the project, an analysis will be carried out in order to understand the specific requirements in terms of qualifications in different countries and in different industries.

The impact of a harmonized European training curriculum in this area is big. Having qualified personnel in the manufacturing industry leads to a better adaptation to the market's constant changes, increased innovation, higher quality and organic development. These are nowadays' market requirements that manufacturing companies have to comply with.



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