

**PRESS RELEASE 1**  
**MORAL Kick-off Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus**

On 7-8 February 2024, Mediterranean Management Centre (MMC) organised and hosted the kick-off meeting of the new Erasmus+ Project '**Key Skills Micro-credentials: A Passport to Employment and Inclusion**' (MORAL) (Forward-Looking; 101132909).

Through a detailed presentation of the project activities and tasks, representatives of MMC that coordinates the project explained that MORAL aims to **facilitate the access to the labour market**, emphasising long-term unemployed individuals, young people, economically inactive women, and low skilled adults, through the development of '**A Passport to Employment**' (PTE), that is, **a set of stackable micro-credentials indicating that a person possesses key skills for acquiring junior (entry-level) job positions**.

The idea behind the project is that one should be able to acquire knowledge and skills on specific competences, be evaluated on small-volume learning, and be able to prove respective qualifications that will enhance their employability and effectiveness at work. Within MORAL, candidates for entering the labour market and professionals moving within the labour market will use an **asynchronous electronic learning platform to upgrade their key skills** and will take **assessments to validate these skills and be granted micro-credentials**.

During the two-day meeting, the project partners had the opportunity to meet each other for the first time, exchange views, and elaborate issues related to the progress and management of the project. Key discussions included an introduction to micro-credentials based on European policy documents during which the partners shared their experiences with previous projects. This session highlighted the value of micro-credentials in promoting both employability and lifelong learning. Also, an important meeting session focused on setting up a plan for primary research with the involvement of employers in all the partner countries to **identify key competences necessary for employment in junior (entry-level) job positions**. In that session, the consortium had a workshop to conclude on an initial list of competences deriving **from four European Competence Frameworks (LifeComp, GreenComp, DigComp, EntreComp)** to serve as a basis for the focus groups that will follow.

This productive and enjoyable meeting concluded with the partners expressing their enthusiasm for the opportunity to come into direct contact with organisations with which they share the same vision and are part of a growing community dedicated to promoting lifelong learning and new learning trends. The consortium decided to meet again in September 2024, in which the 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting of the project will be held in Italy to discuss the progress of the project activities and the development of the first project deliverables.

