ECVET Earth Building

From Raw Material to Mix

Unit **M**

Learning outcomes	Level 5
KNOWLEDGE	SKILLS
 Geological data applied to earth construction for sourcing of different clay and soils (read reports, maps, collect data): look for quarries identify soils appropriate for construction (open extraction sites) Properties and use of clay as a binder in building materials Advantages and disadvantages of different kinds of stabilisation Tests to identify suitability of soil for construction purposes Methods for determining appropriate mix (constituent proportions) Selection criteria for earth extraction and preparation equipment: cost, efficiency, consumption, maintenance, dimensions, handiness, security, providers, Hygro-thermal, bioclimatic and mechanical properties of earth building materials: thermal bridges and airproofness, thermal mass, impacts on air conditioning (heating and cooling), indoor air quality and comfort, mould Innovation and development related to earth construction and testing procedures Environmental impacts of earth material: existing Life Cycle Analysis data, carbon assessment 	Planning Program all the studies and controls for earth materials at different steps, from sourcing to production of the mix Identify sources (deposits, providers) of earthen materials and other mix components Carry out various soil tests to determine its suitability for construction Make samples: test walls, cubes, cylinders Carry out or order various tests on samples to determine physical and mechanical properties of mix Choose appropriate additives: organic/mineral Modify the composition of the mix, according to a required task, weather conditions and equipment Calculate the quantities of materials and check the availability of the sources Select and if necessary adapt equipment for extraction, transport, preparation and mixing Coordination Organise the workforce and coordinate the team for optimum workflow in production, from extraction to earth mix preparation Liaise with and control various professions and trades linked to raw earth extraction, testing, processing and mixing Modify program against earth related incidents Controls Prevent disaggregation during transport and mixing Check if the moisture content of the mix is well controlled Check the correct application of the site health & safety plan
COMPETENCE	

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- Create confidence on site and underline the particular issues relating to earthen materials through site inductions and training where necessary
- Assess and report site soil, used earth and alternative sources of earthen materials for use as building material (possible building techniques)
- Characterise earth mix on site and/or in lab relating to earth building standards or regulations and give input to preliminary design studies: specific technical requirements (composition of the mix, equipment, processes)
- Manage the efficient procurement of the earth materials, raw and mixed
- Liaise with architects and engineers (level 7), give input to preliminary design studies about sourcing, tests, processing, equipment, mixing

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Criteria and Indicators for the Assessment of Skills Level 5	
Criteria	Indicators
Planning	 Test methods have been discussed and test results are documented Possible applications for local soil are defined Quantities of materials are accurately estimated Choice of equipment for extraction, transport, preparation of earth and mixing is appropriate Planning of production is adapted to the type of equipment and number of workers
Coordination	 The earth building competence of the team is assessed and training needs identified The workers are aware of the behaviour of clay and evolution of the earth mix with time Distance travelled with earthen material to/on construction site is optimised Equipment are used correctly and efficiently The work plan and cost plan are up-dated in light of events Mix is available when needed
Controls	 Properties of the extraction soil are regularly checked Quantity of extraction soil and other components is correct and storage appropriate Mix is homogenous (grain size, fibres and humidity) and in line with the specification The site is managed safely: Personal protection equipment is adapted to risks and is used according to safety instructions Equipment is used according to safety instructions. All protective safeguards are in place Erection of ladders and scaffolding according to regulations

Ensure that standards of work and materials comply with relevant codes of practice and to current standards.