



Validation of Informal Learning in European Projects

VIP Newsletter

July 2011

Invitation to the conference on validating learning outcomes in EU collaborations and mobility actions

On October 14th, 2011 our 5th conference on "Validating Learning Outcomes in Informal Learning" will take place in Leuven, Belgium; organised in the framework of the VIP project. The conference will contribute to the current discussion of how to evidence learning outcomes in collaborative projects, partnerships and mobility actions. We will focus on the question how especially personal and social competence developments can be evidenced, since these are the key competence acquired in lifelong learning.



In Leuven this will be done in a cross cutting approach covering the four educational sectors Adult Learning, VET, Higher Education and School Education.

Due to the participatory setting of the conference the number of seats is limited to 60.

We are expecting educational experts and practitioners from more than 15 European countries, from different kinds of European projects, universities, schools and training institutes as well as national and European decision makers and funding organisations.

Background

The VIP project (www.vip-eu.org) seeks to evaluate the competence development of team members working in European projects to improve the visibility of informal learning that takes place in collaborative European projects, networks and partnerships.

Together with the related project VILMA (www.vilma-eu.org) we focus on key competences of Europeans on the move- be it in transnational teams or in mobility actions.

In the projects the evaluation of personal and social competence and skills development is based on our unique "LEVEL5"-system that has been developed, piloted and applied in more than 50 learning projects since 2005.

LEVEL5 is a system approach to assess and evidence learning outcomes on the basis of

- cognitive,
- activity related and
- affective

competence developments of learners in non-formal and informal learning contexts.

Within this conference we will present the outcomes of the VIP project, apply the instruments and create new opportunities for projects and services in the field of learning outcome validation.

State of the VIP project – What has been done so far?

In the first half of the project a large-scale survey was carried out to find out the level of awareness and the needs to evaluate personal and social skill developments within European multilateral projects and partnerships. The survey clearly showed that there is a high demand for this kind of evaluation in the field (see VIP newsletter 2).

The results have been consolidated by a series of interventions in Brussels (Feb. and June 2011) and in Paris (Dec. 2010 and July 2011) on invitation by the EACEA and the French National Agency.





In October 2010 the VIP group also organised its first conference in Göttingen, Germany, focusing on the development of instruments and services to support projects and stakeholders who want to assess and evidence learning outcomes related to rather generic key competences.

In June 2011 the team was invited as the only Grundtvig project to the Erasmus cluster conference in Brussels. In the two-day meeting it became obvious that, beyond formal recognition of learning outcomes, be it via ECTS or ECVET, there is still a white spot on the "validation agenda" which becomes visible specifically in the mobility sector:

People on the move – be it pupils in twinnings, young adult learners in internships, students in placements, learners in VET mobility actions or transnational apprenticeships, seniors on mobility – they all acquire more than knowledge, skills and competences related to EQF-based systems.








It is quite obvious that in all European collaborative and mobility based actions learners acquire to a large extent personal, social and organisational competences. What is missing is an approach that facilitates the evidencing of those acquired skills and competences on the individual learning pathway. The REVEAL-group that has developed, tested and fine-tuned the LEVEL5 system over the last 6 years seeks to offer instruments and services related to this demand.

We strongly believe that there is a growing demand for an exchange of experience in regard to the validation of these kind of learning outcomes on the European level.

Hence we organise European seminars and conferences focusing on current topics, presenting learning projects and informal learning activities to a large European audience.

If you are interested to join the conference please contact us!

The VIP-Partnership

-  University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany
-  BUPNET GmbH, Bildung und Projekt Netzwerk, Göttingen, Germany
-  "die Berater" Unternehmensberatungsgesellschaft mbH, Vienna, Austria
-  Landcommanderij Alden Biesen, Belgium
-  Belies Consulting S.L., Barcelona, Spain
-  Romanian Institute for Adult Education IREA, Timisoara, Romania
-  CVNO, Education Center for Non-profit Organisations, Banská Bystrica Slovakia

VIP is a project that works in the framework of the REVEAL, the Research and Evaluation group for Validating, Evidencing and Assessing informal and non-formal Learning.

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