

VIP – Validating Informal learning in European Projects and Partnerships

Abstract/Summary

In European Grundtvig actions (projects, partnerships and other mobility actions, networks) stakeholders from different countries gather under a multinational umbrella to develop new approaches, projects, products and services.

But European collaborative projects are also informal learning spaces for the partners.

The aim of the 24 months VIP-project is to assess and evidence the impact of EU-projects and actions in respect to collaborative learning within the partnerships.

Rationale

Unlike projects at national level activities in international teams require not only stronger efforts in terms of resources but also competences and knowledge about adult learning in partner countries, intercultural collaboration, tolerance, openness for change etc... .

The VIP project approaches European transnational projects as informal learning spaces for individual participating representatives of partner institutions, providing numerous opportunities to acquire new competences or develop the existing ones.

Although there are tools focused on evaluation of projects, there is significant space for improvement in regard to evidencing the quality and creativity of internal learning in projects. VIP is a reaction to the current situation when people participating in international projects do not have sufficient opportunities for self-evaluation.

The VIP partnership will create and test highly relevant and unique tool which will facilitate self evaluation and validation of competences acquired during participation in international projects. The tool is based on approaches and instruments developed in the premium assessed previous projects ACT and SEALLL.



Activities

Main activities carried out in the VIP-project:

- Collecting different approaches and instruments to validate informal learning and evaluating them against their feasibility for the context of learning projects and partnerships.
- Launching a European survey to substantiate the findings and to research the level of awareness about the issue.
- Investigating the demand of evaluation in regard to competence development in European projects and partnerships.
- Establishing an inventory of possible learning outcomes in multilateral projects and partnerships
- Developing a reference system to evidence the learning outcomes and the impact of informal learning in European Grundtvig actions on the basis of the LEVEL5 evaluation system for informal and non-formal learning (to evidence the learning outcomes and competence developments on the cognitive, affective and activity related level).
- Developing and piloting a European training course aiming at raising awareness for the topic of evidencing and validating informal learning in European projects and partnerships and enabling the participants to apply the VIP approach in their projects and collaborative learning contexts.
- Creating a transnational network consisting of experts from research and practice contributing to validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Approach

VIP makes use of the LEVEL5 approach for evaluating informal learning. Since 2005 the approach has been used to evaluate more than 50 micro projects (learning activities). The LEVEL5 process is not merely a documentation exercise but rather a dual process that benefits both the learner and the learning providers.

Kernel of the LEVEL5 approach is a model to assess, evidence and validate the

- cognitive,
- activity related and
- affective

competence development of learners in informal and non-formal learning contexts. Individual or group competences are evaluated in a process orientated way, visualised in a 3-dimensional cube model and fully documented in specific software system.



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REVEAL



VIP is a part of REVEAL, the Research and Evaluation Group for Validating, Evaluating and Assessing Informal and Non-formal Learning.

Currently REVEAL experts may be contacted in the following European member states: Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia, Switzerland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

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