

## Summary

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## Leonardo da Vinci programme

*The Leonardo da Vinci programme links policy to practice in the field of vocational education and training (VET). Projects range from those giving individuals the chance to improve their competences, knowledge and skills through a period abroad, to Europe-wide co-operation between training organisations. Part of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme, the programme funds a wide range of actions, notably cross-border mobility initiatives; co-operation projects to develop and spread innovation; and thematic networks. The potential beneficiaries are similarly wide – from trainees in initial vocational training, to people already in the labour market, as well as VET professionals and private or public organisations active in this field.*

## «Recognition of non-formal and informal learning and consolidating links between University and the labour market »

This first newsletter informs about the project VALuing experience Beyond University. It is addressing University teachers and trainers willing to improve professional integration of their students in integrating the learning outcomes of experience acquired through non formal and informal learning by their students. The project is proposing a pedagogical tool (a portfolio) and its digital development (an e-portfolio) with an online training (e-training) to allow the University teachers/trainers to identify and value an experience acquired beyond the University by their students/trainees or even integrate these learning outcomes of such

experience in their global evaluation in validating in their cursus.

The VAB project involves Universities and experts in lifelong learning in 5 European countries: France (*University of Evry Val d'Essonne*, leader of the project and *iriv conseil*, coordinator), Austria (*die Berater*), Greece (*Hellenic Open University*), Eire (*University of Limerick*) and Slovenia (*University of Ljubljana*). This project is a Transfer of Innovation supported within the Leonardo da Vinci programme, under the Lifelong Learning (LLL) programme of the European Commission.

## Context

Thanks to the reform of the Higher Education all around Europe, the same common framework has been proposed: Licence, Master, and Doctorate (LMD). Thanks to this reform, the diplomas are now more comparable from one country to another especially for the employers. This is a key issue to enhance mobility in Europe. Moreover, each of the countries has made an effort to express the content of the diplomas/ certificates with regards to the knowledge, skills and competences acquired by the students and their link with the labour market. The problem remains the difficulty for students to have an access to a first job ; unemployment rate is high among youngsters. It is

especially difficult for them to find a relevant job that would fit with their qualifications. They are constantly being reproached their lack of experience. They don't know how to value on the labour market the various experiences such as a personal experience (sport, art, culture), a social experience (volunteering, elective mandate) or a professional experience (student job...) they have acquired beyond the University. The VAB project should allow the University teachers & trainers to have a pedagogical tool to assess the learning outcomes gained through non- formal and informal learning by their students/trainees outside the University.

## The expected results

The results of the VAB project are:

- a pedagogical tool for teachers/ trainers (a portfolio);
- a digital development of this portfolio (an e-portfolio);
- an e-training for teachers/ trainers including a virtual tutor and self- training;
- an experimentation of the e-portfolio and the e-

training;

- a network of teachers/trainers, students/trainees and councillors in professional orientation;
- the disseminating of the results through newsletters and a website;
- the creation of a weblog to support the experimentation;
- the publication of the results of the project.

## The portfolio

The portfolio proposed by the VAB project is a tool to identify the experience acquired by students beyond the University and to express it in terms of skills and competences. It allows the teachers/trainers to assess these knowledge, skills and competences or even integrate them in the global evaluation by awarding the students European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The portfolio includes :

- the identification of the experience gained by the

student outside the University ;

- an expression of this experience in terms of competences acquired/developed ;
- a reflexive approach on this experience and these competences ;
- a projection on the future according to the personal and social projects of the students and their professional perspectives.

## The e- portfolio

The e-portfolio is a digital development for the portfolio. It allows the updating of data and the access to the personnel records of the student.

The e-portfolio proposed by the VAB project is a tool to identify and value the experience acquired by students beyond University. The users (University teachers/ trainers but also the

students) could access from a single portal including special areas to some useful information on the students' situation in the different countries, the national and European legal frameworks and the progress of the Bologna process.

## The e-training

It is an online training (e-training) including a tutor and a self training, in order for teachers and trainers to use the e- portfolio. It is encouraging

the cooperation and the exchange of experiences between the teachers/trainers among different countries thanks to the collaborative platform.

## The partners

The VAB project gathers six partners in five European countries :

### In France



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**The University of Evry Val Essonne-** (France), a founding member of The “Pôle Recherche et d’Enseignement Supérieur PRES”, is one of the four new Universities created in 1991 in Ile de France. Multidisciplinary (Fundamental and Applied Science, Science and Technology, Economics and Law, Social Science and Management), the University has more than 10 000 students (20 % graduate through on-the-job training programmes, continuous training, or Validation of Learning Through Experience: this is one of the highest rates in France); one of their priorities is the access to the labour market of their students but also their access to the citizenship.  
Further information: [www.univ-evry.fr](http://www.univ-evry.fr)

**Iriv conseil** (France) the Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) is a Research and Training Institute on Volunteering, created in 1997. iriv conseil created in 2000 is a permanent structure making studies, providing councils and proposing training on volunteering and the non profit sector. Iriv conseil has conducted several European projects and has been involved in a lot of European projects in the scope of Lifelong Learning, migration, Youth volunteering and access to New Technologies. Iriv is responsible for the transfer of innovation to the new public, University teachers & trainers, of the portfolio proposed in a previous European project ([www.eEuropeassociations.net](http://www.eEuropeassociations.net)) initiated and directed by iriv , from 2003 to 2006, in 7 European countries.  
Further information: [www.iriv.net](http://www.iriv.net)

**die Berater** (Austria), A private company founded in 1998. It offers educational seminars and training for individuals, organisations and enterprises from soft skills to languages and information technologies. Their main aims are to motivate and qualify customers to make full use of their potentials in the economy, at the labour market and their personal lives. It is responsible for the evaluation of the results of the project.  
Further information: [www.dieberater.com](http://www.dieberater.com)

## in Greece



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***The Hellenic Open University (Greece)***, it is the sole Greek University that offers formal and informal adult education in both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, leading to BSc, MSc and PhD degrees as well as to lifelong Learning certificates. HOU has established in-house facilities for the development and delivery of printed and digital educational material. The HOU will be responsible for the digital development of the portfolio (e-portfolio) and to propose a collaborative platform to host the e-portfolio and e-training.

Further information: [www.eap.gr](http://www.eap.gr)

## In Eire



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***The University of Limerick (Eire)***, it is an independent, internationally focused University. Its mission is to promote and advanced learning and knowledge through teaching, research and scholarship in an environment, which encourage innovation and upholds the principles of free enquiry and expression. It is responsible for coordinating the experimentation.

Further information: [www.ul.ie](http://www.ul.ie)

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***The University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)***, It was founded in 1919 and ranks at the largest Slovenian University. The Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology cooperates with over 20 departments in Europe and worldwide. The University is partner in many European projects. It is responsible for coordinating the exploitation activities.

Further information: [www.Uni-lj.si/](http://www.Uni-lj.si/)

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