

Some key data

o The overall population in Austria is 8.3 million inhabitants, the number of students* is 243 378 (2 932 for 100 000 inhabitants). The GDP/hab is 33 810 euros. The unemployment rate of youngsters (15-24 years)** is 8%.

o France have 63.8 million inhabitants. The number of students is* 2.2 millions (3 448 for 100 000 inhabitants). The GDP/hab is 30 401 euros. The unemployment rate of youngsters between 15-24 years is of 19%.

o Greece have 11.2million inhabitants. The number of students* is 468 547 (4 183 for 100 000 inhabitants). The 15- 24 years** have an unemployment rate of 22.1%, the GDP is 21 300 euros/hab.

o Eire have 7.4 million inhabitants. The number of students* is 171 000 (2 311 for 100 000 inhabitants). The GDP/hab is 41300 euros. The unemployment rate** for youngsters between 15 and 24 years is of 12.6%.

o Slovenia have 2 million inhabitants. The number of students* is 74 000 (3 700 for 100 000 inhabitants). The GDP is 18 000 euros/hab. The rate of unemployment** for youngsters between 15 and 24 years is of 10.4%.

Source : France diplomatie.fr/ Ministère des Affaires étrangères

*Number of students registered in Higher Education in 2006/2007

** Data Insee 2008.

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VAB Project



VAluing experience **B**eyond university

European project Leonardo Da Vinci
initiated by the **University of Evry Val
d'Essonne**
and by *iriv conseil*

in France 

in Austria  in Greece 

in Eire  and in Slovenia 

Pilot project
Leonardo da Vinci Programme
European Commission
Education and Culture



Education and Culture DG



University of Ljubljana



October 2009- September 2011

Context of the project

The harmonization of the diplomas in the Higher Education all around Europe might facilitate mobility among students and enhance new professional opportunities. Unemployment rate among youngsters remains too high. Even for graduate students, it is hard to find a first job that would fit with their qualifications. The main obstacle faced by employers is their lack of a professional experience. The VAB project is proposing to University teachers/ trainers, a pedagogical tool meant to identify various kinds of experience such as a personal experience (art, sport, culture...), a social experience (elective mandate, volunteering...) or a professional experience (student job, training period...) acquired by their students/ trainees beyond University and to express them in terms of skills and competences.

Objectives

The VAB project is dedicated to University teachers & trainers. It is proposing a tool and a method to improve the global evaluation of their students in taking into account the experience they have acquired beyond University to enhance their chances for professional insertion. The VAB project allows to identify, value or even validate knowledge, skills and competences developed/gained through an informal or non formal learning by students outside the Universities. The VAB project should thus improve the transition between the University and the labour market.

Agenda

1st of October 2009 – 30th of September 2011
(24 months)

Main steps of the project

- a pedagogical tool (a portfolio) for teachers/trainers to identify knowledge, skills and competences acquired/developed beyond the University by their students through non formal and informal learning. University teachers/trainers could also validate and integrate the competences assessed in the global evaluation of their students, for instance through the delivery of ECTS;
- a digital development of the portfolio (an e-portfolio) from which the University teachers/trainers could also have an access to other functionalities, in particular, professional integration of students, professional opportunities for youth on the labour market ... in the different partners countries;
- a distance training (an e-training) for University teachers/ trainers including a virtual tutor and a self-training in order to clarify and organize the different steps to be followed by users to implement the e-portfolio thanks to a collaborative platform;
- an experimentation of the e-portfolio and the e-training among teachers/trainers, Universities, councillors in professional orientation, and students' associations.

Dissemination of the results

The information is dedicated to University teachers & trainers, Universities, training bodies, councillors in professional orientation, students and to the general public. There are many tools to disseminate the results of the project and so ensure relevant information available in both English and French:

- a newsletter;
- a project website (www.vab-univ.eu);
- a weblog;
- articles and publications.

Expected results

A portfolio

The portfolio proposed in the VAB project is a pedagogical tool to identify and assess experience (personal, social and professional) acquired by students beyond the University and to express this experience in terms of skills and competences. The portfolio should allow the University teachers/trainers to value these learning outcomes and integrate them in the global evaluation of the students, for instance by delivering European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

An e-portfolio

The e-portfolio is a digital development of the portfolio. It allows the updating of data and an easy access to the personal file 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 as indirect public, 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.

An e-training

It is an online training (e-training) including a virtual tutor and a self-training, in order for teachers and trainers to use the e-portfolio. It should improve the use of the e-portfolio. It is encouraging the cooperation and the exchange between the teachers/trainers among different countries thanks to the collaborative platform.