

For further information visit the website

<http://www.euracademy.org/euro-validation/background.htm>

This Transnational Network project is co-funded by the European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture, Leonardo da Vinci Programme



Network Partners

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Pan-European System of Lifelong Learning Validation for Sustainable Rural Development

'Euro-Validation' A Network Project



The Background

In the knowledge economy, developing and using human resources to the full is a decisive factor in maintaining competitiveness. In this context, certificates and qualifications are an important reference point for employers and individuals alike on the labour market. Innovative forms of certification for informal and non-formal learning are important for widening the recognition spectrum regardless of the type of learning methods used. This European Commission co-funded project (Leonardo da Vinci Programme) runs for three years, bringing together a wide network of training providers, including universities, social partners and consultants in rural development from 12 European countries.

Our Aims

The key aim of the trans-national Network project is to promote best practice for the validation, certification and accreditation of informal and non-formal learning, with special emphasis on the skills and competences necessary to enhance sustainable rural development.

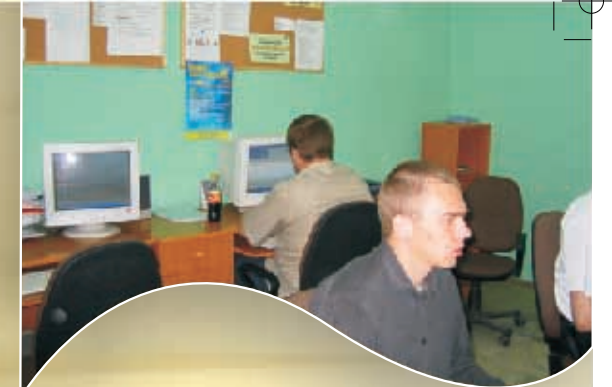
What we do

- Review policies and methods of valuing, validating, certifying and accrediting informal and non-formal learning across Europe, leading to a typology of the different methods used for recognising informal and non-formal learning in rural areas of the enlarged European Union.
- Make recommendations for the establishment of a flexible system of skills and competences' validation and accreditation, following non-formal or informal learning.
- Develop and pilot test a learning schedule based on flexible individual "learning pathways" comprising blended learning methods, across the different sectors of economic activity in rural areas, with a view of developing a cross-national qualification awarded by universities and other training providers within the Network.
- Establish a project website for Network enlargement and dissemination purposes.
- Hold two European conferences in Hungary and Greece, and nine national workshops in other participating countries to debate the issue of validation and certification of non-formal and informal learning in a rural context.

The Legacy of the project

The achievements of the project will be recorded in two publications:

- A Guide to Certification Options across Europe. The Guide will discuss and compare legislation and policies regarding the process of validation, certification and accreditation of non-formal and informal learning, with special reference to rural areas.
- A Manual for building individual 'learning pathways' leading to certification. The Manual will present the methodology developed by the Network and discuss the lessons learnt from its pilot testing within a rural context in seven countries.



Who benefits

The beneficiaries of the project include training providers, individual learners, certification agencies, social partners, policy makers and researchers, especially those connected to rural economies.

