

Newsletter

Announcement for partner project VVH:
LIVE Seminar on 11th of July 2015
<http://ok-opintokeskus.fi/en/vvh>

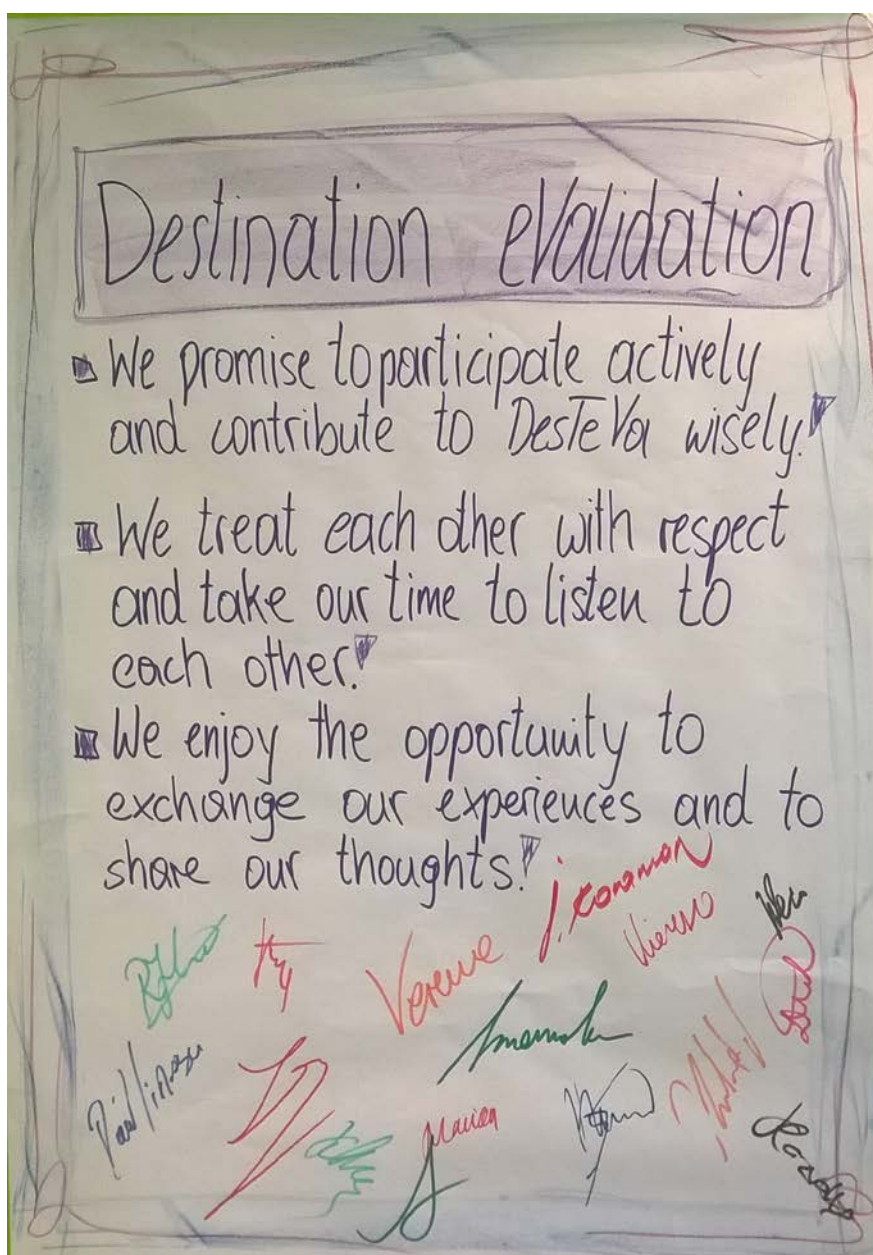
“We produce a new way of validating skills and connect volunteers in Europe”

Background

To meet the requirements by the European Commission to develop systems for the validation of non-formal and informal learning, nine European countries (Germany, Finland, Italy, UK, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Romania and Bulgaria) have set up the ‘Destination eValidation for Volunteers’ project (DesTeVa) as a follow up to the Volunteering Validation Highway (VVH) Grundtvig Learning Partnership.

Goal

The main goals of this project are, firstly, to raise awareness of the competences acquired in the field of volunteering and of the need for validation and, secondly, development of an online tool for the visualisation, documentation, validation and recognition of these competencies.



First Meeting

Representatives from the nine member countries participating in the DesTeVa project meet on a regular basis to work on the intellectual outputs, to share information and discuss findings. The first meeting in Paderborn, Germany, from 29th of October to 1st of November 2014, was used to learn about each country’s contribution and to pave the way for good cooperation.

We specified our goal; clarified expectations, set our objectives and allocated responsibilities and work packages.



Second Meeting

For the second meeting, the nine partners of the DesTeVa project met at the OK Study Centre in Helsinki from the 21st to the 24th of April 2015. We set off by discussing the



state of the project by approaching validation from the micro/meso/mega perspective. We also discussed the following questions: “How can the volunteer be guided through the online tool?” and “How can we bring the self- and peer- evaluation together?”. An exchange of ideas about validation experiences and service learning took place with our guest speaker, Ms. Mai Salmenkangas, from the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences.



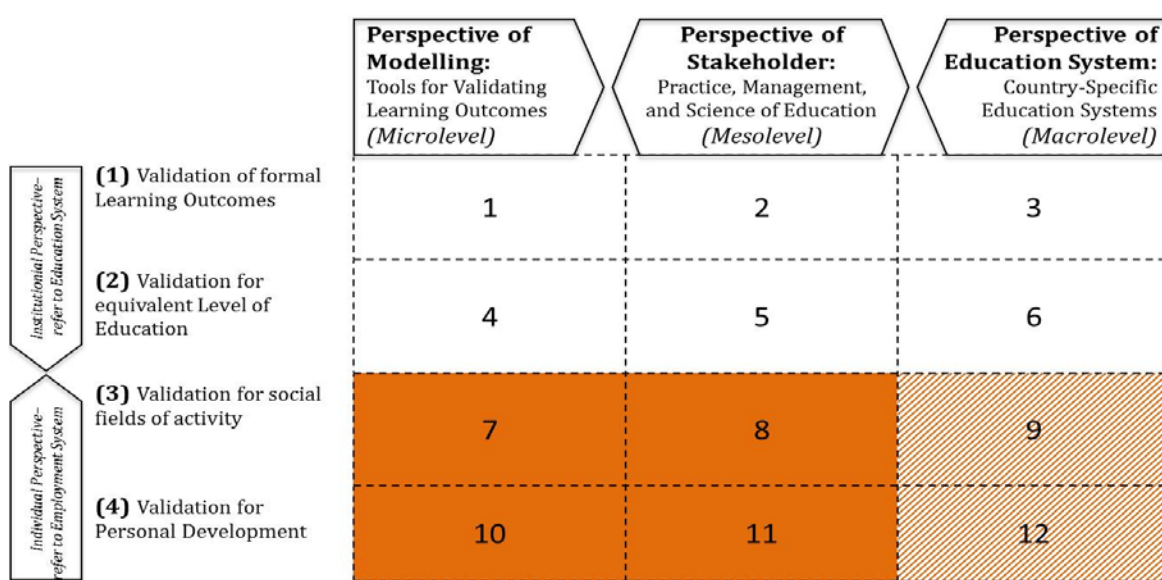
Methods and Process

During the project, each of the nine partners collects information about their respective NQFs and their relation to the EQF. This information is disseminated and shared with the other partners in order to compare them (find the document 'NQF Analysis' on our website: <http://validationforvolunteers.eu/downloads>). More steps, like intellectual output 1: Level Matrix and 2: Validation Methodology, are needed to be able to produce an online validation tool. This online tool helps users to discover and visualize their competencies, which they can use for their documentation and validation. In addition to the online tool, the project shall create an ebook that includes information from different countries. Besides this output, the project's aim is to raise awareness about competences that are acquired through volunteering and especially the need for the validation of these competences in order to make them presentable in applications and other kinds of documents. In order to facilitate the recognition of volunteering competences by relevant stakeholders, the project intends to engage various stakeholders in national seminars and transnational conferences.

No	Intellectual Outputs
IO 1	Structure Analysis of NQFs and EQF
IO 2	Guideline of Validation Methodology
IO 3	Develop and Test Online Tool
IO 4	Publish e Book
E1+2	Multiplier Event: National Seminars, Transnational Conference

Position of Project

The project has adopted an individual perspective instead of an institutional one because the consortium is not going to target the education system but focus on individual volunteers, instead. For this reason the consortium are focused on the quadrants from seven up to twelve in matrix on the left-hand side. Concerning the micro, meso and macro levels, the project focuses on the first two levels. Within the micro level we shall concentrate on modelling, which means the focus is on the tools or instruments for validating learning outcomes.



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The meso level, on the other hand, presents the perspective of the stakeholders, which means that the meso level includes the stakeholders in the education sector. In the context of validation, stakeholders playing a role within the meso level include practitioners, managers, administrators and academics. The macro level, also called the perspective of the education system, focuses on the country-specific education systems. This can be the base for national development, where each stakeholder is responsible for its own change and implementation.

Intellectual Output 1: Level Matrix

The Level Matrix is the result of hard work and long discussions. It shows a description of volunteering skills relating to levels two to five within the European Qualification Framework (EQF). For the development of this level matrix, we have used our analysis of the National Qualification Frameworks in relation with each other and the EQF as a basis. In addition, the consortium has considered the key competences for lifelong learning adopted by the European Commission (<http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32006H0962>) and the model from Rego, Zóximo and Correia (2014, as competências profissionais geradas pelo voluntariado.) for its development. The level matrix can be downloaded on our website: <http://validationforvolunteers.eu/downloads>.

Level 2	Level 3
<p>Level 2 Be in possession of competences for the professional fulfilment of basic requirements within a step and steady structured field of volunteering. Fulfilment of tasks takes place largely under supervision.</p> <p>Knowledge Possess basic knowledge about communication process and profiles (information, negotiation, motivation, conflict or cooperation) with different target groups in the field of volunteering. Recognize the environment (stakeholders) and boundaries (legal framework, risks, expectations) of volunteering. Possess basic knowledge about initiate and manage internal communication processes. Recognize management and continuous improvement tools. Possess basic information about ethical and cultural requirements in volunteering.</p> <p>Skills Be able to use simple tools to communicate in volunteering work. Be able to deal with new simple challenges under supervision. Be able to understand and to deal with control when addressing volunteering tasks. Be able to use the basic features of ICT tools for supporting daily routines in volunteering field. Be able to understand and to notice volunteering values (e.g. acceptance of other people) in daily routines.</p> <p>Competences/Attitudes Recognize the importance of resilience to recover from an adversity or turn them into opportunities. Understand the capacity to monitor the quality of your work.</p>	<p>Level 3 Be in possession of competences for the professional fulfilment of general requirements within a steadily structured field of volunteering. Fulfilment of tasks takes place on one hand under supervision and on the other with little responsibility.</p> <p>Knowledge Possess general knowledge about communication process and profiles (information, negotiation, motivation, conflict or cooperation) with different target groups in the field of volunteering. Know the environment (stakeholders) and boundaries (legal framework, risks, expectations) of volunteering. Possess general knowledge about initiate and manage internal communication processes. Know management and continuous improvement tools. Possess general information about ethical and cultural requirements in volunteering.</p> <p>Skills Be able to use different tools to communicate in volunteering work in volunteering sector, which means coordinate activities, network, coordinate and negotiate tasks. Be able to deal with new challenges (e.g. acceptance of other people) in volunteering tasks. Be able to improve self-control and self-feedback for further development. Be able to describe and to notice general volunteering values in daily routines.</p> <p>Competences/Attitudes Understand the importance of management and leadership activities in volunteering sector, which means coordinate your activities, network and negotiate tasks. Support capacity to recover from an adversity or turn them into opportunities. Support capacity to monitor the quality of your work. Recognize the importance to keep the objectives, objectives and know which stakeholders you need for which activity. Develop a sense of cultural events. Experience the attitude of lifelong learning.</p>
<p>Level 4 Be in possession of competences for the professional fulfilment of requirements within broad context in a field of volunteering. Fulfilment of tasks takes place largely alone with responsibility.</p> <p>Knowledge Possess deep knowledge about communication process and profiles (information, negotiation, motivation, conflict or cooperation) with different target groups in the field of volunteering. Understand the environment (stakeholders) and boundaries (legal framework, risks, expectations) of volunteering. Possess deep knowledge about initiate and manage internal communication processes. Have an understanding about management and continuous improvement tools. Possess deep information about ethical and cultural requirements in volunteering.</p> <p>Skills Be able to use different and complex tools to communicate in volunteering work. Be able to deal with new challenges (e.g. acceptance of other people) alone. Be able to improve self-control when addressing volunteering tasks. Be able to manage advanced ICT tools for dealing with specific problems in volunteering field. Be able to describe and to notice volunteering values in broad context in volunteering field.</p> <p>Competences/Attitudes Support capacity of management and leadership activities in volunteering sector, which means coordinate activities, network and negotiate tasks. Capacity to recover from an adversity or turn them into opportunities and give (self-) feedback for further development. Capacity of resilience to recover from an adversity or turn them into opportunities and participate active in change. Capacity to monitor the quality of your work. Sensibility to keep the stakeholders informed and know which stakeholders you need for which activity. Take active part in cultural life and enhance. Develop a way of living the idea of the (volunteering) activity.</p>	<p>Level 5 Be in possession of competences for the professional fulfilment of challenges within a changing and unstructured field of volunteering. Fulfilment of tasks takes place alone with responsibility and exercise of aggression.</p> <p>Knowledge Possess comprehensive knowledge about communication process and profiles (information, negotiation, motivation, conflict or cooperation) with different target groups in the field of volunteering. Possess thorough knowledge about the environment (stakeholders) and boundaries (legal framework, risks, expectations) of volunteering field. Possess comprehensive knowledge about initiate and manage internal communication processes. Possess thorough knowledge of management and continuous improvement tools. Possess comprehensive information about ethical requirements in volunteering. Possess knowledge about learning methods in the context of volunteering.</p> <p>Skills Be able to use comprehensive tools to communicate in volunteering work. Be able to deal with new challenges (e.g. acceptance of other people) and manage others. Be able to improve self-control and self-feedback for further development. Be able to manage and to improve advanced ICT tools in volunteering field. Be able to notice adequate volunteering values in given situations in volunteering field and be able to justify as a role model for other volunteers.</p> <p>Competences/Attitudes Exercise management and leadership activities in volunteering sector, which means coordinate activities, network, coordinate and negotiate tasks. Review the development of self and others and give (self-) feedback for further development. Have strong resilience to recover from an adversity or turn them into opportunities and promote change in the work of others. Monitor the quality of your work and know which stakeholders you need for which activity. Take active cultural life, respect other cultures and express your own culture in a creative way. Live the attitude of lifelong learning and promote it to others.</p>

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Next Steps



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