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# synergies

## NEWSLETTER II/June 2017

“Synergies” is an Erasmus+-project: Baobab from Spain, LAG from Germany, Alpha from Italy and uniT from Austria are members of the project consortium. All the participating organizations are working in the field of adult education. The main goal of the project is to improve the situation of recognition and validation of non-formal and informally acquired competences. .

### **1. Short remarks on the situation of validation in the regions of the partner organizations**

#### **Germany – LAG**

- In Germany, there is a shortage of labour. The politicians and employers hope to solve this problem by integrating Syrian refugees in the labour market. However, many of these refugees do not have any certificates etc. showing their competences. Therefore, an improved system of validation is urgently needed. Very often, the refugees must attend further trainings and it takes them a long time to get in a job. A part of them is not motivated to do so because they want to earn money and to have a proper job. They do not understand that they need certain qualifications.
- A lot of money is provided for training- and job integration programs for refugees but the programs are often not good enough coordinated. The NGOs, which should implement these courses, do not get enough money for their overhead linked to these courses so they often have problems to take part in the programs.

#### **Italy – Alpha**

- Alpha is reporting of their structured observations of assessing competences in their region by volunteers as in the Caritas. Alpha will share the observations with the Caritas to improve the way the volunteers check competences.
- In the midst of June Alpha will do the same research in the jobcentre of the Province of Genova. Here they will observe professional counsellors in their methods to assess competences. The focus will be on women who are trying to find jobs in the care of elderly people.

#### **Spain – Baobab**

- Labour market situation in Spain: There are many low skilled and high skilled people but there is also a lack of people with a medium-qualification.
- A lot of money is provided to support unemployed people but more or less no money to validate competences. To improve the process of validation in Spain requires more methods, tools and funding.

## **Austria – uniT**

- In Austria, validation is mainly combined with professional education. A good practice example in our opinion is to assess professional competences on the job or in practical testing settings and to build a further professional training on the given competences. The way to certificates like Lehrabschlussprüfung or Facharbeiterausbildung is splitted up in several modules so that it is easier to find very individual paths to the qualification that are needed. Sometimes the labour market service cooperates with enterprises in offering professional trainings.

## **2. Recommendations**

The partnership published recommendations to improve validation of competences in their countries. These recommendations have been developed from the results of the research works of the partners and the common discussion of these results. They are overall recommendations. The partners asked experts and stakeholders to comment on these recommendations.

For further details: <http://synergies.online/project/output/>

## **3. Toolkit**

To contribute to the improvement of validation the “Synergies” partnership will develop methods and strategies of validation which they will test in their context and improve then. The first draft versions of some methods one can find on: <http://synergies.online/project/output/>

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Cooperation Partners:

