



Validation of Service related Learning Outcomes with an IT based Assessment and Evidencing System

VITA Newsletter No 1

July 2012

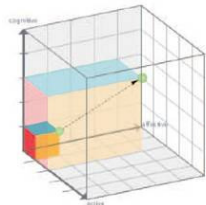


VITA's rationale and objectives

Europe is evolving into a service-based society. Professional life and career development are increasingly determined by continuous learning to adapt to rapidly changing demands. In the service sector, personal and social competences are fundamental, thus becoming competitive factors in professional life. This relates for instance to customer orientation, team work, cooperation, intercultural communication, flexibility but also entrepreneurial skills and competences. These rather cross-cutting competences are mostly acquired in informal contexts outside educational institutions, e.g. by learning on the job or in life-contexts.



As far as the validation of these competences is concerned an “off- the-shelf” assessment against curricula or standardised reference systems (e.g. on basis of EQF, ECVET and ECTS) is barely conceivable. Hence formal validation is not suitable to display those personal and social competences that play a decisive role in the service economy



VITA seeks to fill a gap by providing a system to validate personal and social competences that are mostly neglected by formal validation systems. Therefore VITA makes use of the LEVEL5 system which is specifically designed to assess personal, social and organisational competence developments in rather non- and informal learning settings. Interfaces to formal validation and certification systems will be developed, in order to improve the recognition of these, mostly informally acquired, competences

The VITA training course, May 30-31, 2012 in Göttingen

In order to enable the VITA partners to assess and validate the development of informally and non-formally acquired personal, social, organisational competences relevant for the service sector with the LEVEL5 system, a training was carried out in the last days of May in Göttingen. The training was followed by a conference under the framework of REVEAL on June 1st, 2012.



It took place on May 30th and 31st in the “Akademie Waldschlösschen” a meeting venue in the woods close to Göttingen. Prior to the f2f part of the training an e-learning unit was conducted, where participants could get to know each other and stated their expectations.

26 participants from different educational sectors and 13 European countries came together for two intensive days of getting to know the LEVEL5 method and learning how to apply it in their work contexts.

The course consisted of theory inputs and background information (Introduction on assessment of informal learning, assessment methods, quality criteria for working with LEVEL5) presented to the plenary, mixed with workshop sessions on the practical aspects and feasible ways to include LEVEL5 into different learning situations.



Workshops were held on the following topics:

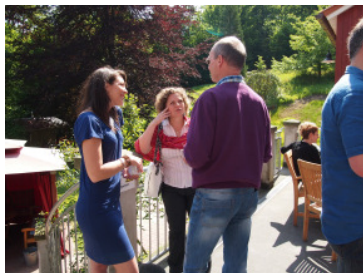
WS 1. Describing learning projects, becoming aware of context, activities and possible competences to assess (ideas for inventory)

WS 2. Understanding and contextualising reference systems, integration of assessment into learning activities

WS 3. Assessing and rating of competences – Simulation: Maria as project manager

WS 4. Setting up a new reference system (selected competence: negotiation)

Following the workshops the group came together for a final session in the plenary where everybody conducted a self-assessment on their validation competence which was followed by a feedback discussion where open questions were answered and ideas for further applications got discussed. Overall the training ended with a general positive feedback and a lot of creative ideas for further applications.



The REVEAL conference, June 1st 2012 in Göttingen

One day after the VITA training the 6th REVEAL conference took place in the „Holbornsches Haus“, a historic building in the city centre of Göttingen. 30 visitors from 15 European countries came together to cooperatively deal with the question how the LEVEL5 approach for Validating learning outcomes from informal and non-formal learning activities can be offered to a broader public.

A network structure was designed that offers different levels of access to individuals and institutions according to their interests and depths of involvement. The network shall guarantee the further development and exchange of experiences as well as provide support for validation projects of the members.

For further information please visit the REVEAL website (<http://www.reveal-eu.org>) where you also find a detailed documentation on the conference and its participants.



The VITA-Consortium

- BUPNET GmbH, Bildung und Projekt Netzwerk, Göttingen, Germany
- Die Berater ® Unternehmensberatungsgesellschaft mbH, Vienna, Austria
- INSUP Formation, Bordeaux, France
- Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania
- SVEB, Zurich, Switzerland VIA University College
- Aontas – National Adult Learning Organisation, Dublin, Ireland
- METU – Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
- VIA University College, Aarhus, Denmark
- Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Blinc eC, Göttingen, Germany



Contact

VITA
Sabine Wiemann
Am Leinekanal 4 - D-37073 Goettingen
swiemann@bupnet.de
Websites: www.vita-eu.org

REVEAL
Dr. Tim Scholze: tscholze@reveal-eu.org
Websites: www.reveal-eu.org



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This newsletter reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.