

## Observatory on Validation

An extended view on validation of non-formal and informal learning with:

- ↪ Data on regulations, standards and references, methods and tools, results and statistics in a common format
- ↪ Reviews of national debates and discussions, connections to European initiatives (NQF-EQF, learning outcomes, adult education plan,...)
- ↪ A set of interesting practices through case studies
- ↪ Annotated bibliography and literature review (researches, surveys, reports,...)

### EUCEN

Balmes 132  
08008 Barcelona  
SPAIN  
  
Tel. +33 3 20 43 41 35  
Fax +33 3 20 43 67 77  
E-mail: sonja.moreau@univ-lille1.fr

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## Partners

European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN), Belgium  
3s research laboratory, Austria

Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), Belgium

Navreme Boheme s.r.o., Czech Republic

Foundation "Vocational Education and Training EPA 21<sup>st</sup> century", Bulgaria

Danish Adult Education Association, Denmark

University of Tartu, Estonia

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Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, France

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University of Pécs, Hungary

Education and training service centre – ETSC, Iceland

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Consortium E-Form, Italy

Vidzeme Lifelong Learning Support, Latvia

Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la Formation professionnelle/Service de la formation professionnelle, Luxembourg

In Holland University, Netherlands

Vox- Norwegian Institute for Adult Learning, Norway

Faculty of Psychology of the University of Lisbon, Portugal

ANUP-INTERNATIONAL, Romania

CPZ-International, Centre for Knowledge Promotion, Slovenia

Jönköping University, Sweden

Universidad de Valladolid Spain

Konrad Associates International, United Kingdom

European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning – EUCIS, Belgium

NAVREME knowledge development KEG, Austria



European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN)

## EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY OF NON-FORMAL & INFORMAL LEARNING VALIDATION

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The Observal project will provide an analysis of the information on validation of non-formal and informal learning available in a country:

- ↪ presented in a common format and based on a quality process
- ↪ allowing comparability
- ↪ different categories of information (interactive and dynamic approach)
- ↪ with a guarantee that the information is accurate and regularly updated

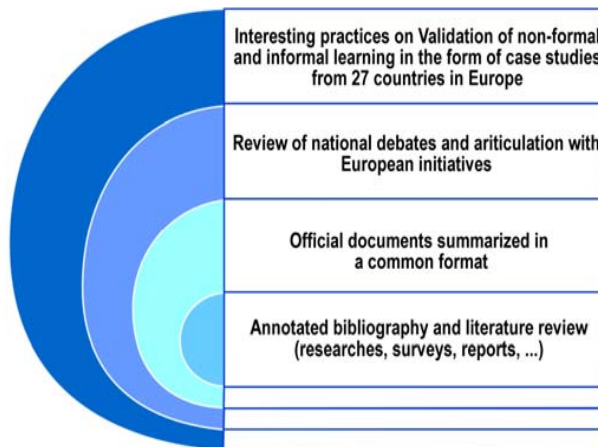


## An Observatory

The Observal project has a «**benchlearning approach**» which implies:

- ↪ Collecting material (benchmark)
- ↪ Analysing material
- ↪ Debating the results

to provide an extensive and critical view on situations and practices of validation of non-formal and informal learning in Europe. The observatory will contain:



Observal has a balanced approach between a European dimension and the national or sectoral dimension, in order to reflect diversity. The objective is comparability without attempting to impose similarity

- ↪ Provide a global resource for actors in charge of validation, for policy makers, for social partners and stakeholders, for researchers...
- ↪ Contribute to a common understanding of validation
- ↪ Work on a common language and a common definition of concepts
- ↪ Identify common issues, problems, obstacles, and solutions



## The challenge

Most Member States have developed policies or regulations designed to encourage the practice of validation of non-formal and informal learning but provision is still sparse. In recent years, a number of studies have identified, compared and classified initiatives (Bjørnavold 2000, Bjørnavold and Collardyn 2004, Duvekot, Schuur and Paulusse 2005), "European Inventory" (European Inventory 2004/2005 and 2007).

The objective of the project is to complement this set of documents by:

- ↪ Creating a permanent European Observatory on validation of non-formal and informal learning based on a European network of national experts.
- ↪ Collecting and analysing existing data and presenting them in a common format that will allow both comparison and articulation of practices developed in different contexts or sectors, and their evaluation using criteria defined on the basis of the "common principles".
- ↪ Identifying regulations, organisation, pilot projects and experiments, standards and reference frameworks, tools and methods, purposes and approaches in the workplace, results registered (access, credits, exemptions, award of qualifications etc.) and statistics available for the development of practice.
- ↪ Reviewing national debates or discussions between the most influent actors on validation issues.

- ↪ Situating the debates in a learning culture and in a European policy context, especially the implementation of the EQF.
- ↪ Reviewing research on the policy and practice of validation and create an annual annotated bibliography and literature review.
- ↪ Promoting an annual European validation prize.
- ↪ Provide a launching pad for new ideas and initiatives.

## Timeframe & Events

Observal is a 3-year project which started in November 2007

A European Validation prize will be organised at the end of 2009.



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