

Report of the youth sector discussion, Friday 5 November, Kaunas

General remark :

We all work in the same environment (or quite the same, that is youth sector) except Sol. Co. Consortium which is more a third sector organisation dealing with vocational training.

We found it quite difficult to have a general discussion and make a common summary of the situation of our sector as we had never met before and did not know much about each others before this meeting in Kaunas.

Our common goal in the REFINE project is the **recognition of non-formal education and specifically learning through volunteer activities**. Even though we were all involved in similar activities, our expectations and needs according to the meeting in KAUNAS and the participation of the REFINE project were different.

Here is a list of some of the main interests that were pointed out during our workshop:

- Make volunteer activities more visible and put an emphasis on their educational role
- Recognise youth leaders ‘ “*Knows*” even though they are not officially considered as professional competencies
- Give accreditation to voluntary experience as part of the prior learning education
- Identify competencies of youth leaders to help create a national or European diploma for youth leaders
- Consider young people not only as formal learners (students) but also as non-formal learners

Many specific and national tools were experimented. The only European tool that we all tested is the **EuroCV**. According to us, the form and the substance of the EuroCV is not adapted to everyone. As a matter of fact, it results most of the time difficult to understand “competencies” and “skills” and to translate an experience into a competence. A counsellor is needed in most of the case to follow the candidate all along the process of self-assessment.

It is necessary to promote the EuroCV in front of employers. We found out that in most of our countries the EuroCV could not be presented for a job interview. However it seems to be a relevant basic tool to fill in a national type of CV.

Finland has been experimenting for years a Recreational Study Book for which most of us have shown much interest. Parallel to this tool, the French partner is working on a Volunteer portfolio.

Some ideas and goals for our working plan for year 2:

1. Keep on working on the EuroCV, try to adapt it to our audience and our sector
2. Make more visible and legitimate volunteer experience using tools such as the Recreational Study Book as a first path to compile and evaluate voluntary experiences
3. Compare and adapt volunteer portfolios in our respective countries