

ANUP – ROMANIA

REFINE - QUALITY PROCESS

The national partners activating in the project in Romania are the following: ANUP (national coordinator, partner 17 in the REFINE project), FIATEST, PROSPER-ASE, QUEST, West University of Timisoara, Popular University Tg. Mures and Zonal Center of Adult Education Tg. Mures. As a general rule, the whole process of quality assurance at institutional level is at its beginning, with variable degrees of implementation, depending on the type of institution (e.g.: higher education institutions are at the beginning of implementing the Bologna requirements, some institutions have recently implemented the ISO standards a.s.o.). In this context, the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, which has been recently regulated at national level by a specific methodology produced by The National Board of Adult Vocational Training, is operating in rather small degrees at institutional levels as well.

The National Board of Adult Vocational Training (NBAVT) is currently operating a procedure of assessing and certifying vocational competences of adults, achieved through informal and non-formal education (approved by the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, and The Ministry of Education and Research, Order No. 4543/468 from 23.08.2004). At present, the assessment process is conducted in 14 centers all over the country, for adults wishing to certify their competences, according to the occupational standards validated and recognised at national level. NBAVT, which is operating according to the SR EN 45013:1993, ISO 17024, is planning to extend in the future its network of assessment centers conducting this activity. The whole process is at the beginning, the number of adults actually applying for this service being rather small.

Nevertheless we can mention that the National Board of Adult Vocational Training (NBAVT) has recently promoted legislative framework for creating the evaluation centres which are instruments to promote quality in the system of vocational training. Till now there are about 20 of such centres.

Results have been registered also within materials produced by several European projects and which will be a basis in discussing with the decision makers about quality in this domain.

1. *What quality assurance arrangements are in place for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the organisations in your group? How is the **quality of the process** of recognition assured? If none yet, what plans do they have?*

1.The FIATEST partner introduced the ISO standards and procedures at institutional level last year and West University of Timisoara is part of the Bologna process. No information on a systematic implementation of the recognition of non-formal and informal learning at organisation level is available yet.

2. *What quality assurance arrangements are in place in relation to the specific tool(s) that you have tested? How is the **quality of the specific procedure** assured? If this is different in each organisation, please explain briefly.*

2.The testing of the specific tools was done on a voluntary and experimental basis in Romania. No other specific procedures except the REFINE project recommendations have been implemented at this stage. It is expected that the generalisation of the findings would bring the special concern about the implementation of “solid” quality assurance procedures.

3. *In the light of your work in Refine, what do you think are the **key features of a quality assurance arrangement** for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning?*

3. There are a few prerequisites for a successful implementation of quality assurance procedures at institutional level at the moment in Romania: 1. Knowledge and shared understanding of existing specific methodologies and regulations in the field up to date; 2. Knowledge and debate on good practices coming from national, regional, European comparable institutions; 3. Networking with European institutions already implementing quality assurance procedures.

4. *What do you think is the **most effective kind of quality assurance arrangement** for recognition of non-formal and informal learning?*

4. Institute a standing program of education and self-improvement, correlated with training-on-the job within the institution. Team-work, team building, effective professional communication, effective leadership are some key issues in Romanian companies and institutions which need to be developed and refined in order to implement effective procedures of recognising informal and non-formal learning at organisational level.

5. Any other comments about quality in the recognition of non-formal and informal learning?

5. In Romania the process of recognition of non-formal and informal learning is at its very beginning, but this has to be seen as a great opportunity "to build in" the quality assurance procedures together with the development of small and medium enterprises, institutions and organisations blossoming as a result of economic development.

Romanian team

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