

Work plan – REFINE France / Belgium Group

Active members of the group (structures and managers)

University of NANCY/CUCES, Ms Andrée Collot

University of West Brittany, Ms Laure Ben Moussi

AFPA, Ms Ulrike Josenhans and Ms Michèle Lutrand

Catholic University of Leuven, Mr Joseph Godeau

French Red Cross, Mr Emmanuel de Montvalon

Science and Technology University of Lille – associate partner and financial and administrative project manager, Mr Michel Feutrie and Mr Olivier Vanhoenacker

Fédération Nationale des Francas, Ms Isabelle Dufau, Mr Jean-Yves Crenn – Miss Sonia Jouffre, in charge of national project coordination

A general approach

Subsequent to the work carried out within the framework of TRANSFINE on the validation of experience (VE) as a structural model for the recognition and validation of the experience gained from formal, non-formal and informal education at European level, the partners involved in the Franco-Belgian REFINE team decided to experiment with the REFINE tools within the framework of a general approach to support the VE.

The tools and methods chosen were of two different types consisting, on the one hand, of the tools proposed by the European Commission contained in the Europass (language portfolio, Euro CV, supplement diploma or certificate, Mobilipass). On the other hand, the partners were keen to develop the scope of their experiments and discuss their personal approaches to supporting the VE (accompanying guide) or other tools promoted at national level for recognition in the field of non-formal education, for example with the volunteer's portfolio.

Choice of tools

In order to be able to draw comparisons, the partners agreed to experiment with a shared European tool, the Euro CV, in their respective contexts (university, vocational training, youth and third sector).

In contrast to other Europass tools, which were designed above all for students and the formal education sector, the Euro CV, which is more flexible and more open, corresponds to non-formal and informal qualifications and skills.

- The partners from the university and vocational training sectors wish to use the Euro CV as an additional or substitute tool in their approach to support the VE.

- Les Francas and the Red Cross plan to test the Euro CV on a group of volunteers and professional people (activity leaders, elected representatives, etc.) who are involved in the promotion of their voluntary experience within the structure either in the context of seeking employment or the validation of experience with a view to obtaining a professional diploma.

Individual choices were then made concerning other tools such as:

- the Mobilipass for the AFPA (impact study within the framework of an INTERREG programme between France and Spain on exchanges for trainees involved in professional courses)
- the language portfolio for the Universities and Brest and Nancy, the AFPA and possibly les Francas
- The VE accompanying guide. Exchanging methodologies between the university and professional training sectors and sharing practices with other partners.
- The volunteer's portfolio drawn up by la Fédération des Francas.

Working methods

A presentation and evaluation grid for tools and methods was established during our last meeting. It contains a non-exhaustive list of useful questions for a shared analysis which can be adapted to the contexts and tools tested.

To what extent are the existing tools useful for the validation of experience at a national and European level?

Criteria	Analysis
Easy to use	Opinion of the candidate / the supporting person / the employer
Legitimate	Purely declarative / supporting documents - opinion of the recipients - in a European / national context
Areas covered	Can the tool be used in different contexts? / can it be used to create links between the formal, non-formal and informal sectors?
Easy to explain	Does it help to promote auto-evaluation and an awareness of personal skills? Descriptive or analytical tool
Easy to adopt	Can it be adapted to a broad or targeted group of people? Form and structure

Schedule

a) 17 May – Meeting between partners: overview of the analysis and adoption of the various tools and systems proposed for the experiments.

Which tools have been chosen? To what extent can these tools be integrated in a general approach? What are your motivations? Which tools do you consider to be the least appropriate in your sector of activity? Why? (to study the relevance of certain tools)

b) Mid June: overview of the context surrounding the experiments to be conducted

Who is going to test these tools? Who are the “guinea pigs?” Which methods will be used (interviews, case studies, etc.)? Will comparisons be made? What deadlines have been set?

c) Mid October : overview of the results of the experiments – meeting to prepare the intermediate Kaunas meeting planned for 20 October.

Strengths and advantages of the tool? Limitations and obstacles faced? What is the purpose? For whom? Links between the tools? Compatibility between them? In which situation are these tools most effective? Do they complement other tools or methods which are already used at local level?

d) 2005 : overview of the use and development of these tools

Is it necessary to adapt these tools according to the context or the geographical environment in which they are used? Can they be transferred to European level? What potential obstacles exist? Does the legislation have to be adapted to the use of these tools? How can the use of these tools be continued in your sector and in other sectors?

The tools may be tested up until the end of December. However, the results must be presented at the intermediate meeting to be held in Kaunas at the beginning of November.

2005 will be dedicated to analysing these tools in a European context. A more in-depth overview of the experiments conducted on the tools at a national and sector-based level may be established for the drafting of the final report to be presented at the end of 2005 in Rome.