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### Materials from EUCEN's activities in Brussels in October 2013



#### **OBSERVAL-Net**

EUCEN's project on Validation of non-formal and informal learning distributed during its last event the final materials produced by the consortium: An Advocacy Pack with Intro, Set of references, Manifesto on VNIL and 3 flash cards (one in each topic explored by the project). These materials, now available in electronic format, can be downloaded from the home page of the project's site <http://www.observal-net.eu>

The event, attended by 71 participants, included a keynote speech from Jens BJORNAVOLD (CEDEFOP) as well as a presentation on the latest state of the art on the topics Bottom-Up Approach, The New VNIL Profession and Work-Based Development and Recognition. All these materials can be downloaded from <http://www.observal-net.eu/FinalConference>

During the event the new free, on-line **VNIL Community** was launched. This discussion group is already active. You can join it in [LinkedIn](#) .



#### **DIALOGUE**

The Final DIALOGUE Conference gathered 40 participants, including 5 external experts that brought in new views and ideas to the work done by the consortium. Very interesting discussions and fruitful group work also helped feed the final recommendations report introduced at the event. This final report will include an introduction to the project's objectives followed by analyses of the methodologies and products achieved, including a set of recommendations aiming at the promotion of a sustainable ULLL Dialogue.

Access to all the materials presented during the event are available from the project website <http://dialogue.eucen.eu/FinalConference>

Click on the LinkedIn icon  in the project's website <http://dialogue.eucen.eu> to join the discussion group.



## 2013 EUCEN Autumn Seminar

With an attendance of 45 participants, the 2013 EUCEN Autumn Seminar facilitated information on the forthcoming new programmes directly from DG Education and Culture and DG Research and Innovation. The keynote speeches of Johannes GEHRINGER and Monica MENAPACE are now available in the form of PowerPoint files at the seminar website <http://autumn2013seminar.eucen.eu/programme>

During the second part of the seminar participants had the chance to work in small teams and explore possibilities for preparation of new proposals. The five working groups developed ideas and these were presented to the whole group afterwards. The flip charts were captured and are also available to be downloaded from the programme page.

The last part of the seminar allowed the group to discuss situations encountered while participating or managing EU funded projects. A number of recommendations for better management were given to the audience.

## 2013 Validation Prizes

The OBSERVAL-Net project awarded the 2013 Validation Prizes in Brussels, during its Final Dissemination Conference. The 9 finalists (3 in each of the three categories: Bottom-Up Approach, The New VNIL Profession, Work-Based Development and Recognition) attended the event and presented their case studies in small workshops during the Learning Cafes.

Participants found the workshops highly interesting and dynamic. And had the opportunity to find out in very short slots of time good practices meant to inspire them in the future.

The winners to the prizes by category were:

**Bottom-Up Approach:** Weiterbildungsakademie Österreich (wba) - Austria  
*"Recognition of Competences of Adult Educators in Austria and Beyond"*  
 Award collected by **Karin Reisinger**

**The New VNIL Profession:** SAVO Consortium for Education, EUedu - Finland  
*"Validation and Valuation of Learning Expert Training"*  
 Award collected by **Anni Karttunen**

**Work-Based Development:** Rockwool B.V. - Netherlands  
*"VNIL-steered career management & personal development"*  
 Award collected by **Erwin Prins** and **John Geven**

Access to the highlighted case studies received this year is available from the OBSERVAL-Net website <http://www.observal-net.eu>



From left to right:

*Carme Royo, Executive Secretary of EUCEN*  
*Karin Reisinger, winner category "Bottom-up Approach"*  
*Anni Karttunen, winner category "VNIL new profession"*  
*John Geven and Erwin Prins, winners category "Work-based competence"*

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## New projects: COMMIT and more

EUCEN has just started its new ERASMUS project COMMIT. The project, with 12 partners from 12 different countries (apart from EUCEN), intends to build on the outcomes from EUCEN's finished project, ALLUME. The website of this new project is being constructed at the moment and will be available very soon. In the meantime, you can contact the project via email at [commit@eucen.eu](mailto:commit@eucen.eu), if you have any questions or would like to have more information.



Apart from this project coordinated by EUCEN, the Association is starting to work as partners in five other new projects:

Connect-VET (Leonardo): Transfer of knowledge connected to Vocational education and training issues.

TALOE (KA3): Development of open e-assessment tools and strategies.

PACE (KA4): PACE will systemically collect, analyze, further develop and widely disseminate across education sector results LLP-funded support tools for European project work. A cloud-based Social Enterprise Platform will serve as the backbone of an emerging community of EU project management practitioners

PACT (Tempus): Transfer of knowledge connected to EU project development and management. Approach to the Caucasus area.

VALERU (Tempus): Transfer of knowledge connected to VNIL issues. Approach to Russia.

EUCEN's web site on current projects has been updated with more information about these forthcoming activities.

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## Call for an External Evaluator

In relation with the new EUCEN project COMMIT, a call for an External Evaluation has been launched to start working in January 2014 and continue his/her work until the end of the project (i.e. 31 May 2016).



EUCEN expects the external evaluator to comment on the planning of internal quality and tools; provide formative feedback and summative evaluation at the meetings, as well as in the middle and end of the project in written reports; propose evaluation questionnaires for partner meetings, visits, valorisation events and activities; and overall assess the final project outputs against initial aims and purposes.

Interested candidates should send a letter, a quotation and a CV to EUCEN before 12:00 a.m. CET, Friday 13 December 2013.

To read all the details about the call, please download the full file from EUCEN's website: [http://www.eucen.eu/sites/default/files/OpenCall\\_ExternalEvaluator\\_COMMIT\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.eucen.eu/sites/default/files/OpenCall_ExternalEvaluator_COMMIT_FINAL.pdf)

## 'Social Investment' will be explored in 2014

The topic of Social Investment in the context of Lifelong Learning will be explored by EUCEN in [Warsaw \(Poland\)](#), 11-13 June 2014, during EUCEN's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:



### *Lifelong Learning and the European Policies on Social Investment*

#### Why social investment?

The recent recommended "Social Investment Package" means policies designed to strengthen people's skills and capacities and support them to participate fully in the labour market and society. However, it also evokes the need for a critical approach.

This conference will provide an opportunity for Lifelong Learning Universities (LLU) to discuss and define their understanding of "social investment".

#### Themes:

- Innovations in developing the skills and competencies of learners
- Reconciliation of work-education-family activities in the life course
- Examples of "social investment" as LLLU contributions to the knowledge bank of good practices
- The returns of investing in lifelong learners

A formal Call for Abstracts will be launched very soon. We will inform you once it is ready.

#### Intended outcome:

The idea is to have by the end of the conference a position paper defining our understanding of the measures to be implemented that in our view allow people of all ages to develop the skills and capacities enabling their full involvement in social, cultural and economic activities.

For more details about this event, please contact Piotr Bledowski at the Warsaw School of Economics: [eucen2014@sgh.waw.pl](mailto:eucen2014@sgh.waw.pl), or EUCEN directly at [events@eucen.eu](mailto:events@eucen.eu)



Conference organised by the Warsaw School of Economics in collaboration with EUCEN, with support from the Human Capital Operational Programme, the Education Research Institute, the University of Gdansk and the Polish Universities for LLL.

*Dome at the central building of the Warsaw School of Economics.*