



Title: LEVER UP – Valuing informal learning and transversal competences experienced in the voluntary service to increase employability, social responsibility and mobility

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Fondazione SNS - Scuola Nazionale Servizi (Italy)
ANCILaB (Italy)
EC VPL European Centre Valuation Prior Learning (Netherlands)
CEV - Centre Européen du Volontariat (Belgium)
HOMINEM Challenge (Spain)
Good Network Foundation (Poland)

Duration: The project starts in September 2017 and ends in November 2019.

A short summary:

The competence subject is a key item in the policy and the European learning programmes. The “European skills and jobs (ESJ) survey” (2015), the first European survey on skill mismatch and produced by Cedefop, pointed out how essential are the transversal skills (communication, team-working, problem solving, learning skills, planning skills and so on). They typically have high transferability across different jobs and sectors and they are important for a higher share of EU28 jobs.

The New Skills Agenda, launched in June 2016, promotes actions focused on improving the skills intelligence; the skills profile tools to support early identification and profiling of skills and qualifications of citizens. Moreover, the Skills Agenda promotes a review of the European qualifications framework (EQF) for a better understanding of qualifications and use of all available skills in the European labour market.

In this view, LEVER UP project is focused on the mutual recognition of the European key competences for lifelong learning, in particular the communication competences, cultural, social and civic learning competences and the social entrepreneurial skills. The main scope of the project is summarized in its title: “Valuing informal learning and transversal competences experienced in the voluntary service to increase employability, social responsibility and mobility”.

LEVER UP project pursues three main objectives:

- The enhancement of a mutual trust area, where the partnership and the stakeholders at local and European level can share a common framework when dealing with significant transversal competences and their validation.
- The development of a model able to value transversal competences in full transparency and transferability between VET, Volunteering and labor market.
- The implementation of a dedicated Service, able to provide the operative infrastructure, to foster the whole system at international and national level and to run at full speed.



The main target groups addressed by the project are:

- Volunteers
- Voluntary service associations and their operators
- Employer associations and enterprises
- Training centers, teachers and schools
- Certification bodies
- Labour Policy makers
- Young people, students and families

Three multiplier events per country with local stakeholders will guarantee to meet the market's needs and the LEVER UP quality. The Final International Conference will be held in Brussels (November 2019).

Activities

The project will carry out activities of model design, starting from the first version of the LEVER model developed in the previous project. For that, LEVER UP will open working contacts with the national and international teams linked to the ECVET, EQF and Europass, in order to highlight and define the new elements to include. Then, it will evolve and finalize the model and it will implement it into English as well as into the project languages (Italian, Spanish, Polish, Dutch and French version). The project will test and, gradually, deploy it into the real contexts, with the aim to develop a running Triangle system where VET, labor market and voluntary sector effectively interact to each other. Training will be an important activity that the project will implement in order to train the required roles of assessors, tutors and the validation centers staff.

Expected outcomes

Tangible outputs

- The evolved LEVER model: Release of an updated version of the model, including strong links with EQF, EQVET, Europass and National frameworks.
- The training service: A blended learning program will be required to train assessors, tutors and certified trainers. It will release Open Badge and will follow a common international policy, even if designed to be also flexibly delivered according to the local context needs.
- The LEVER toolkits, the tools at use of volunteers, tutors and assessors, developed in English, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch and Polish.
- The LEVER Service Centre, the final running service that will operate as an operative contact point to assure any aspect for an effective deployment of the LEVER system at international and national level.
- Cross experimentation involving businesses, volunteering and education institutions.
- The e-LEVER Space (e-LS): the dedicated webspace where all web applications concerning LEVER UP will be available, namely the webtool at support of the validation process, the e-learning platform, the additional features to search and match information such as the related Open Badge and the training certifications released, the validation centres available
- The Lever Up quality frame: A quality system that complies with the VPL quality guidelines in place in European Nordic countries.
- The lever Up economic model: The frame that makes Lever Up sustainable for stakeholders.



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Intangible outputs

- LEVER UP will raise awareness on the target groups about non-formal and informal learning and its recognition by certifications, as a value for the labor market and employability
- A consensus will be built among the different spheres addressed by LEVER UP. Companies can participate in the certification process if they provide assessors. Also, by linking the new released VPL model to the vocational credits and qualifications, reciprocal values with the education environment will be established.

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