Aims and Impact

VALERU aims to establish procedures and human resources for the validation of non-formal/informal learning (NIL) in Russian Higher Education (HE) in order to ensure its sustainable development.

VALERU's specific goal is to

➲ **establish** national procedures for validation of non-formal and informal learning harmonized with European approaches.

➲ **develop** an independent web-space to support the Russian partners in developing validation procedures

➲ **train** an expert and tutor pool competent and capable for validation of non-formal and informal learning outcomes

➲ **pilot** a train-the-trainer-programme for future Russian validation experts

Thus, VALERU provides a methodological basis for validation of NIL in Russian HE, based on European approaches and well grounded in the Russian HE system. In order to integrate learning outcomes from NIL as invaluable ressource in the context of fastly changing needs of the labour market and the development of LifeLong Learning (LLL) in general. It raises awareness among all stakeholders for the importance to integrate NIL learning outcomes in HE in order to ensure the growing demand of highly qualified, trained individuals.

The VALERU Project

VALERU addresses the validating of non-formal/informal learning in Higher Education in Russia, with a focus on learning outcomes from professional experience (work based learning), a key approach for supporting LLL (LifeLong Learning). The project is funded within Tempus as a national structural measure and is based on a strong cooperation between European and Russian HEIs & HE networks leading in the field of validating of non-formal/informal learning as well as networks of SME and professional associations.

www.valeru.eu

VALERU ВАЛЕРУ

Validation of Non-Formal/Informal Learning in Russian Higher Education

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Tempus

Dear Reader,

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We strongly believe that validating non-formal and informal learning (NIL) can significantly improve life-long and life-wide learning. Recognising the importance of learning outside the formal education and training context, a set of common European principles for identifying and validating NIL were adopted by the European Council in 2004. Still, validating NIL is a major challenge to national education systems, particularly to traditional ways of providing and recognising learning. The ways in which NIL is defined, assessed, validated and certificated must be quality assured to raise trust and confidence.

The strong cooperation in the project VALERU can make a difference through implementing and raising awareness of the validation of NIL. It is essential for universities to develop sound frameworks to assess and recognise all forms of prior learning. This is particularly important in the context of lifelong learning in a global era where knowledge is acquired in many different forms and places.

Background and Outset

Two important aims of the Bologna process are the learning outcomes approach and to develop practices related to the recognition of prior learning (RPL).

RPL refers to a set of practices and procedures that can be used to assess the prior learning of the student to approve that learning as part of the student's studies. The purpose is to ensure that a student is not required to complete studies whose learning outcomes he or she can demonstrate to have already achieved.

Such prior learning may be a result of the student's earlier formal studies, but as well as a result of non-formal or informal learning (NIL), for example in the context of the work place.

Project Overview

Even though Russian HE is strongly involved in the Bologna process, the issue of NIL is not yet very much explored in Russian universities: the political commitment and the understanding of its importance exist, but the practical applications have yet to be developed, as it is also the case in many European universities. With this project we intend to change the situation, elaborating a Russian way of implementing the recognition of NIL in Russian HE.

The wider objective of VALERU is to enhance capacity in the recognition of NIL in Russian HE. Specific objectives are the development of methodologies for the validation of NIL and the training of Russian individuals to create a pool of certified experts. Supervided by European partners, different methodologies and instruments will be tested in Russian institutions. Generally, VALERU aims at raising awareness on the topic and approaches to put it in practice among HE practicioners, being it top management, administrative and academic staff.

Project Facts

Contracting Organisation	Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, Tempus structural measures
Duration	1.12.2013 - 30.11.2016
Keywords	non-formal/informal learning (NIL), HE in Russia, validation procedures, work-based learning, lifelong learning, recognise prior learning, further education for all
EU Contribution	633.570 Euro
Website	www.valeru.eu

Consortium

The project consortium consists of an initiative group of higher education institutions in Russia and the EU, dedicated to the topic of LLL, RPL and work based learning. The further development of the consortium was based on contacts and cross linked approaches of each partner, trying to bring together expertise and perspectives relevant for the topic of VALERU.

Coordinator
Danube University Krems, Austria

Partners
- » Berlin University of Professional Studies, Germany
- » University of Chester, United Kingdom
- » Université de Bretagne Occidentale, France
- » European University Continuing Education Network EUCEN
- » Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation
- » Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography
- » Moscow State Academy of Business Administration
- » Agency of Educational Strategies and Initiatives „Bologna Club"
- » Ufa State University of Economics and Service
- » Prof. Qualifications Development Agency of the Republic of Bashkortostan
- » Tula State Lev Tolstoy Pedagogical University, Tula
- » All Russian Non-governmental organization of small and medium business „OPORA RUSSIA"