

# Newsletter

Announcement: Final conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2016 in Valencia, Spain

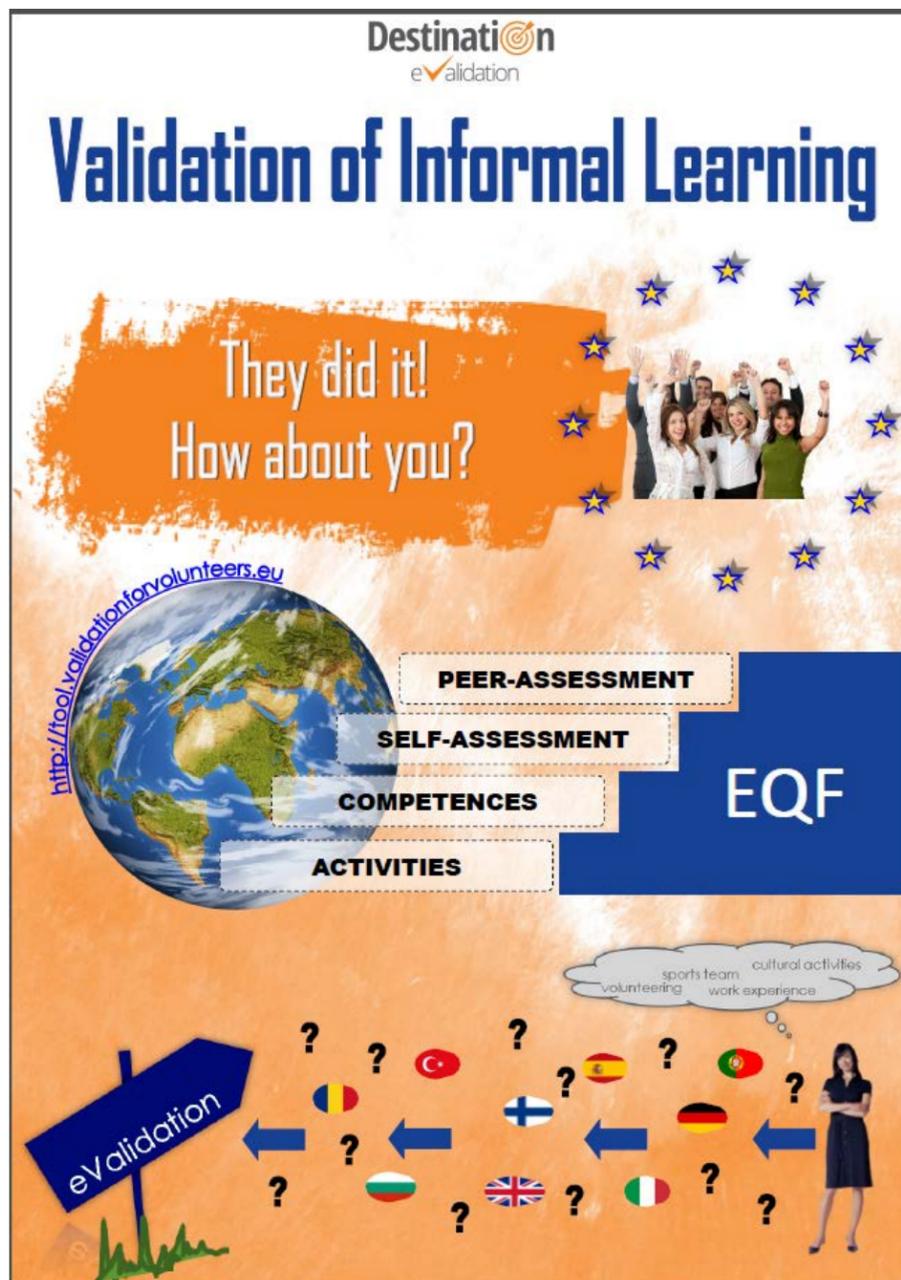
“We produce a new way of validating and connect volunteers in Europe”

## Motivation

In the course of the requirements by the European Commission to develop systems for the validation of non-formal and informal learning nine European countries (Germany, Finland, Italy, UK, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Romania and Bulgaria) founded the ‘Destination eValidation for Volunteers’ project (DesTeVa) as a follow up to the Volunteering Validation Highway (VVH).

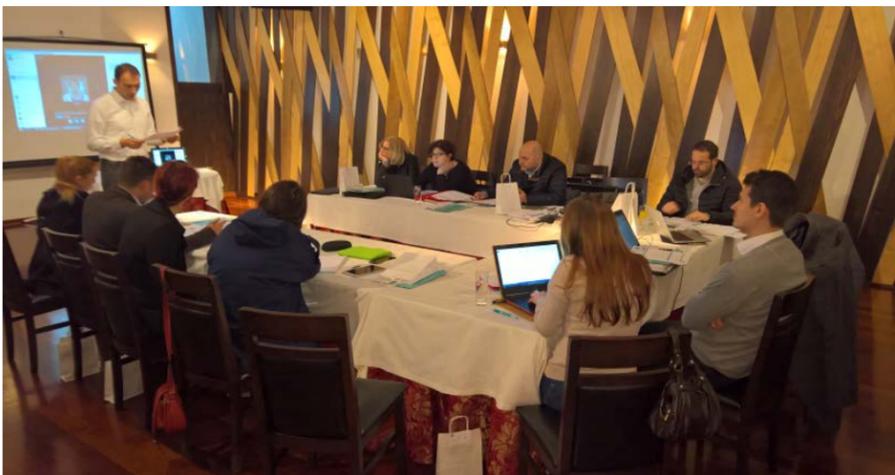
## Goals

The main goals of this project are to raise awareness of competences that are acquired in the field of volunteering, to draw attention to the need for validating these competences and the development of an online tool that makes it possible for volunteers to reflect, to document and to visualize the competences they have gained.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The fourth meeting took place in Barcelos, Portugal from 13th to 15th April 2016. In the first part of the meeting, the results of the Transnational Expert Meeting were presented by Silvia as well as the feedback of the alpha testing phase by Kamen and Manuele. Based on that, the consortium discussed in small groups what changes with regard to the online tool are necessary and then presented their solutions. The topics included the methodology of the system, the clarity of language, didactical reduction and technical problems.



After that, the forthcoming tasks were delegated and deadlines were set. The second part of the meeting dealt with the organization of the national seminars as well as the transnational conference (23th September in Valencia, Spain). Raul presented the structure and several suggestions were made and discussed, so that the agenda for the transnational conference was fixed within the meeting. Another important topic was the e-book that will be published. The partners discussed the final details there.



## Online Tool: $\alpha$ -test

Each partner invited people within their organization or institution to test the online tool and to give feedback for improvement. The  $\alpha$ -test took place from 8th - 21st February 2016. The overall results show that the online tool appears user-friendly and intuitive. It is also valued as useful. There were also good suggestions and ideas how to improve the tool.



The results of the  $\alpha$ -test were the basis for further improvement of the online tool. The feedback of the test-users was very helpful and an important step towards the finalisation of the tool. Bugs were eliminated, the helping section was expanded, and videos (e.g. motivational video) were added. Therefore, the  $\beta$ -testing phase can start soon.

## Insight into the work of volunteers

Thanks to the great organization of the Portuguese partner, the consortium had the opportunity to visit a voluntary institution – *Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Barcelos - Lar de Santo André*. The partners were shown around and got the chance to get an insight into the daily work of the nursing staff and the role volunteers play in such institutions. The group had talked face-to-face with staff and volunteers and they were happy to answer all questions. The nursing staff emphasized the importance of volunteering for their institution, what a great job volunteers do and how much the help of volunteers is needed to keep things running. It was a great and very interesting experience and showed again, how important it is to raise awareness of the competences volunteers acquire through these challenging tasks and the urgent need to validate them.



## Next Steps

