

Newsletter

[eBook](#) now available!

“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 include a raised awareness of competences acquired in the field of volunteering, to draw attention to the need for validating these competences and developing an online tool that makes it possible for volunteers to reflect, to document, to visualize and to validate the competences they have gained.



Final Meeting

The transnational conference, representing the results of the two-year project to a wider audience in Europe, took place in Valencia, Spain on the 23rd of September, attracting over 90 interested participants from all over Europe. In the first part Kamen, Marion and Joana presented the intellectual outputs, namely a Structure Analysis of NQFs and EQF, the Guideline for Validation Methodology, the Online Tool for Validation of Competences and the corresponding eBook. After that it was discussed with volunteering experts, project partners, supervisors and volunteers, how to use the portfolio in practise. How realistic it is, to use the portfolio continuously during volunteering work and what the barriers and optimal circumstances for using the tool are.

This discussion was followed by an exchange of opinions and views, especially on the effects for applications in companies, individual orientation and educational career are.



In the second part, the participants chose a topic out of four (NQF and EQF, the methodology, the relevance of informal learning in Europe and the role of validation in volunteering) and had lively discussions in small groups guided by experts.



Online Tool: Ready for use all over Europe

[The tool](#), now available in eight languages, is composed of four main sections:

Activities, Reflection, Self Assessment and Peer Assessment

After creating a profile, the user is guided through the four steps. First, the volunteer fills in previous *Activities*. In *Reflections*, users can find impulses to reflect on skills, knowledge and attitudes they improved or gained through these volunteering activities.



Within the *Self Assessment*, volunteers answer questions to determine their EQF level and then answer several statements, which are categorized in line with the European key competencies for lifelong learning and represent the corresponding level of the EQF.

Finally, the user can invite peer assessors (e.g. supervisors) via e-mail to validate the portfolio and generate a certificate, showing the activities as well as the competences and the EQF level of the volunteer.

All in all

... the conference was without a doubt a full success and the online tool shows all the requirements to spread around Europe and thus supports many volunteers to reflect, to document, to visualize and to validate their competences acquired through volunteering.

