**Validating Informal and Non-formal Acquired Skills**

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# Instruments for validation of informal and non-formal qualifications



This brochure provides an information about informal and non-formal education, how to validate skills acquired this way and why is it useful.

It includes sections metionned below:

1. **Informal and non-formal education and its importance**

2. **VINA project objectives**

3. **Database of Instruments for Validating Informal and Non- Formal Learning**

4. **Recognition Opportunities Tendency Analyser (R.O.T.A.)**

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# 1. Informal and non-formal education and its importance

Although we are all aware of the need for universal formal education, there is still little knowledge about **informal and non-formal forms of education and their huge significance in a modern world**. They includes all other forms of learning which takes place outside the formal system, however non-formal - on a regular or intermittent basis, and informal is more a result from daily life activities related to work, family or leisure.

Knowledge, skills and competences aquired such way should be **clearly validated and visible** for future employers in all European countries. Posibility to demonstrate what people have learned in all settings of their life can make a significant improvement in their career, future education and trainings.

This is why validation of non-formal and informal learning can make an essential contribution to the EU ambition of achieving smart, balanced and inclusive growth and set people up for **sustainable work and progression, supports social mobility and promotes more equal society**.

**Main differences between formal, non-formal and informal forms of education**

| Formal | Non-formal | Informal |
|---|---|---|
| Obligatory | Facultative | |
| Grades, tests, diplomas | No grades and diplomas, certificates available | No grades, diplomas or certificates |
| Teacher, older, more experienced | Partner, might be younger | No teacher, self-study |
| Rigid curriculum | Flexible program, customized to students needs | Depends on situation/environment |

## 2. VINA project objectives

The main goal of VINA project is to provide Individuals and Institutions easy access to open-source database of a wide range of validation tools, information and projects focused on informal and non-formal learning.

Through international partnership we aim to exch**ange good practices** and support people in Europe with a simple to use instrument, which opens opportunities to make their skills visible and clearly validated.

Enabling effortless assessment of a knowledge and competences acquired through informal and non-formal learning, we respond to the **Europe 2020 strategy targets** by improving people competitiveness, promoting more equal society and supporting social mobility.

The partnership will achieve this aim through realization of

the following operational goals:

- **Database** - database of effective instruments for validation of informal and non-formal qualifications
- **Analyser** - recognition opportunities tendency analyser R.O.T.A.

**Target groups of our projects are**:

- Validation Institutions (Public or Private)
- Adults that are planning for validation
- Institutions that are planning for validation
- Trainers/teachers supporting informal / non formal learning



## 3. Database of Instruments for Validating Informal and Non-Formal Learning

First intellectual output of VINA project is a Database of Instruments for Validating Informal and Non-Formal

Learning. It is ready to help users that are looking for information, projects and their outcomes, European and international organizations, and tools around validation of informal and non formal education.

Our consortium has designed the database according to the recommendations of tool categorization of **Cedefop** (agency that helps European Commission, EU Member States and the social partners to develop the right European VET policies) talking into account the phases of validation, areas of interest and our target groups.

Another important element of the database is the **mechanism for adding new tools/entries** and also the possibility of translating any tools/entries in any language. These features allow us to expand the database fast, though collaborations with individuals and public and private organizations.

These collaborations of course will continue to develop in the following years allowing to exploit the possibilities of the database to the highest level.

Click **here** to see our database.

# Recognition Opportunities Tendency Analyser (R.O.T.A.)

Second product of VINA project is recognition opportunities tendency analyser R.O.T.A mechanism. This mechanism uses a special algorithm assigned to each tool and **evaluates them according to the visits of the single tools in collaboration with the searches in the database.** The results are displayed in a table and also in a graphic format. The table l**ists the main tools that reported the most visits** and searches in the database and the chart shows the tools with the major index number.

At R.O.T.A page we include additional statistical mechanisms concerning the tools we keep in the database. These are the country of origin of the users, the visits from computer or from mobile phones or tablets, the types of Operating Systems etc. These information help to extract additional **conclusions of the preferences of tools, discover tendencies of the users** and a few information about the profile of the users that use our database.

Click **here** to see our analyser.

# 4. About partners – Erasmus+ programme

## Project coordinator:

EURO Research Centre

## Partners:

ELN (European Learning Network Ltd)

e-Compass

Evropská rozvojová agentura s.r.o.

Fundacja Instytut Równowagi Społeczno-Ekonomicznej

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