



## **Vertical links between different types of educational institutions and the local communities**

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## Why EDUCATION?

One of the pillars of the implementation of the European Sustainable Development Strategy:

### **Social sustainability**

One of the obstacles of it:

***Poverty and social exclusion***

Answer in rural areas:

***stop migration and create job!***



## In order to avoid the **MARGINALISATION** in rural areas:

The main stipulation:

**knowledge based rural society**

The main tools:

formal

informal

non-formal education

and

life-long learning



## **Pan-European System of Lifelong Learning Validation for Sustainable Rural Development**

### **„EURO-VALIDATION“ network project**

**2005-2007**



## **Euro-validation project**

**Lead partner:** West-Hungarian Research  
Institute CRS of HAS (Hungary)

**Project coordinator:** PRISMA Centre for  
Development Studies (Greece)

**Further 12 partners:** universities, ,  
educational institutes, training providers,  
and social partners



## Euro-validation project

### The aim of the project:

to promote best practice for the validation, certification and accreditation of informal and non-formal learning, with special emphasis on the skills and competences necessary to enhance **sustainable rural development.**



## Euro-validation project

### Who benefits

- The beneficiaries of the project include training providers,
  - individual learners,
  - certification agencies,
  - social partners,
  - policy makers,
  - researchers
- especially those connected to rural economies.



## How to reach results:

- to recognise the importance for validation and certification of learning in a rural context and its contribution to rural economic development.
- responsibility of education institutions and public authorities for education and certification systems
- to harmonise qualifications at all levels must recognise the vertical links between initial and continuing education and training
- to extend the vertical links including informal and non-formal learning to ensure equality of access to qualifications by all people.



## Definitions

- Formal learning is learning through national accredited schools and regular education.
- Non formal learning is learning through company courses and other non regular education.
- Informal learning is learning through activities that are not designed to be a learning environment such as the workplace, at home and through social work.



## Differences of vertical links between initial education, training and lifelong learning

- 11 national reports introduce the big differences and the acceptable of formal, non-formal education:

### 5 types of European countries defined:

1. Non-formal education: "cautious" attitude, lacking consensus (e.g. Germany)
2. No tradition of VET, dominant position of non-formal learning (e.g. Mediterranean countries)
3. non-formal learning at the forefront of discussion (e.g. Northern countries)
4. social recognition accorded to non-formal learning is still limited (e.g. France)
5. East-European countries (new members): traditional education system and its certification and accreditation is more accepted, but the non-formal and lifelong learning is getting popular (e.g. Poland, Hungary)



## The rural dimension

- Competitiveness of rural area - demand to education

**Obstacles** of different education systems, as non-formal, life-long learning, e-learning:

**weakness in ICT** – technological site

**aversion to ICT** – social site

### **Challenge of rural communities:**

transparency, comparability, transferability and recognition of competences

closer connection to the NGOs concerning rural development for certification and accreditation towards the knowledge-based rural society

special attention to rural dimension of new members and accession counties of EU.



## Some good examples in rural areas

In Poland:

- agri-tourism certificate, compulsory for every individual starting agri-tourism business in Poland. It is issued by the ODR (Regional Advisory Service Centre).
- organic farmer certificate, also issued by the ODR
- Certificate of professional trainer for EU Structural Funds for Rural Areas, available and necessary for every individual, who would like to conduct trainings (within wider context of e.g. private company or state advisory centre) financed by the EU, regarding EU Rural Development Plan for Polish Rural Areas
- Rural Leader Academy providing two-week curriculum development for local leaders



## Some good examples in rural areas

### In Netherland:

#### **EVC (Dutch Knowledge Centre VPL) at Friesland Coberco Dairy Foods**

- The Dutch dairy trading company Friesland Coberco Dairy Foods has been working with EVC since 1998. After completing a pilot, a system has been established at daughter company Frico Cheese. An internal assessor is accomplishing assessments. The assessors' judgement is binding regarding formal recognition for competences acquired through (work) experience. Friesland Nutrition worked with a procedure developed by VaPro. Internal assessors are also used, but the final judgement is under control of consultants of the VaPro. A project is in development at Frico Cheese and Friesland Coberco Butter Products at which employees test on another through a group process. Over 150 people have been certified at Frico Cheese and 10 at Friesland Nutrition.



# Trans-Rural

Transfer of Eurocademy learning packages to formal training systems in rural Europe



**Training course in Hungary**



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