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Navreme Boheme s.r.o., Czech Republic

Foundation "Vocational Education and  
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Danish Adult Education Association,  
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European Civil Society Platform for  
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NAVREME knowledge development KEG,  
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Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education  
and Training SFIVET, Switzerland



## Observatory on Validation

An extended view on validation of non-  
formal and informal learning with:

- ↪ Data on regulations, standards and references, methods and tools, results and statistics in a common format
- ↪ Reviews of national debates and discussions, connections to European initiatives (NQF-EQF, learning outcomes, adult education plan,...)
- ↪ A set of interesting practices through case studies
- ↪ Annotated bibliography and literature review (researches, surveys, reports,...)

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European University Continuing  
Education Network (EUCEN)

## EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY OF NON-FORMAL & INFORMAL LEARNING

Leonardo da Vinci Networks  
LLP 2007 133980-LLP-1-2007-1-BE-  
LEONARDO-LNW

The Observal project will provide an analysis of the  
information on validation of non formal and informal  
learning available in a country:

- ↪ presented in a common format and based on a quality process
- ↪ allowing comparability
- ↪ different categories of information (interactive and dynamic approach)
- ↪ with a guarantee that the information is accurate and regularly updated



## An Observatory

The Observal project has a « **benchlearning approach** » which implies:

- ↪ Collecting material (benchmark)
- ↪ Analysing material
- ↪ Debating the results

to provide an extensive and critical view on situations and practices of validation of non-formal and informal learning in Europe. The observatory will contain:



Observal has a balanced approach between a European dimension and the national or sectoral dimension, in order to reflect diversity. The objective is comparability without attempting to impose similarity

- ↪ Provide a global resource for actors in charge of validation, for policy makers, for social partners and stakeholders, for researchers...
- ↪ Contribute to a common understanding of validation
- ↪ Work on a common language and a common definition of concepts
- ↪ Identify common issues, problems, obstacles, and solutions



## The challenge

Most Member States have developed policies or regulations designed to encourage the practice of validation of non-formal and informal learning but provision is still sparse. In recent years, a number of studies have identified, compared and classified initiatives (Bjornavold 2000, Bjornavold and Collardyn 2004, Duvekot, Schuur and Paulusse 2005), "European Inventory" (European Inventory 2004/2005 and 2007),.

The objective of the project is to complement this set of documents by:

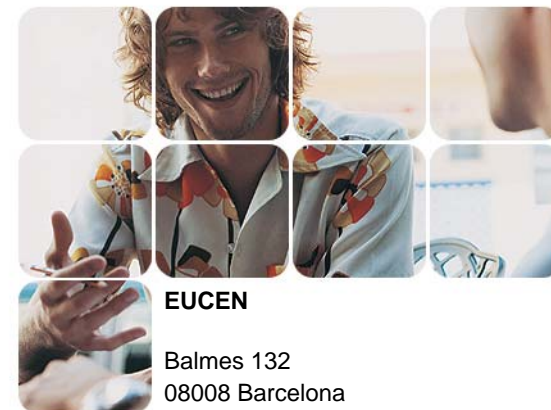
- ↪ Creating a permanent European Observatory on validation of non-formal and informal learning based on a European network of national experts
- ↪ Collecting and analysing existing data and presenting them in a common format that will allow both comparison and articulation of practices developed in different contexts or sectors, and their evaluation using criteria defined on the basis of the "common principles".
- ↪ Identifying regulations, organisation, pilot projects and experiments, standards and reference frameworks, tools and methods, purposes and approaches in the workplace, results registered (access, credits, exemptions, award of qualifications etc.) and statistics available for the development of practice
- ↪ Reviewing national debates or discussions between the most influent actors on validation issues.

- ↪ Situating the debates in a learning culture and in a European policy context, especially the implementation of the EQF.
- ↪ Reviewing research on the policy and practice of validation and create an annual annotated bibliography and literature review.
- ↪ Promoting an annual European validation prize.
- ↪ Provide a launching pad for new ideas and initiatives.

## Timeframe & Events

Observal is a 3-year project which started in November 2007

A European Validation prize will be organised at the end of 2008.



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