



SAVE THE DATE

Final Conference of the project

“ValidVol: validation of key competences in voluntary service organizations”

Pisa, 12 November 2015

Over the last ten years the European Union has fostered member states to cherish and spread lifelong learning of their citizens. Better formed workers may understand and match properly the new needs of the labour market, making Europe more competitive. To achieve such an objective, it is fundamental to recognize and appreciate the competences acquired through non formal (taking place through planned activities where some form of learning support is present) and informal (resulting from daily activities related to work, family etc.) learning. In particular, in accordance with the Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning 2012/C 398/0, member states should set up methods to validate non formal and informal learning, accordingly with their national legislation and through the legal instruments they choose to approve.

So far, Italy has put into effect this recommendation thanks to different measures. The most important tool adopted is without any doubt the Decree No 13/2013. This instrument is aimed at setting up a common linguistic and conceptual ground to clarify terms as: competences; formal, non-formal and informal learning; persons with the required professional competence to validate competences and person whose competences can be properly validated; certification of competences etc. Moreover, this Decree lays down validation and certification standards: the standards of the system and the standards required to provide validation services. Anyway, this Decree has to be fully implemented. For this purpose, it is necessary to clarify what role institutions, association and validators should play within the system.

That is the reason why UniTS has the ambition to encourage an European debate upon these issues, starting from the countries which participated in the ValidVol project (Austria, Greece, Italy, Spain, and UK) financed by the European Commission in the frame of the Lifelong Learning Programme.

The ValidVol process, developed during the project implementation, can be considered as an important tool to sustain the European and national strategy for the recognition of key competences. In particular, the project focuses upon voluntarism viewed as a fundamental opportunity of informal and non-formal learning; an instrument which may facilitate volunteers to attain a new job. In order to carrying out the validation process and its testing phase, it was fundamental to understand better the new possibility opened by the European and national strategy, as well as to contribute to finalise it.

At the moment, it is important to draw up a clear balance of the whole process. The final conference will be useful to understand how to implement the validation process further, sharing at the same time the attained goals. It is important that any activity put in place will be coherent with the European and national legislation.

Details on the programme and the venue will be available very soon. For further information contact UniTS at units@uniterzosettore.it or see the project website at www.validvol.eu and the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ValidVol/583122505117133>.