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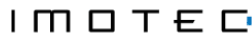
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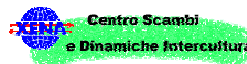
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VILMA Evaluation Approach



VILMA makes use of the LEVEL5 approach for evaluating informal learning. The LEVEL5 process is not merely a documentation exercise, but rather a dual process that benefits the learner as well as the learning providers.

The Network



VILMA is a part of REVEAL, the Research and Evaluation Group for Validating, Evaluating and Assessing Informal and Non-formal Learning. Currently REVEAL is represented by LEVEL5 experts in Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia, Switzerland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

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Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme



VILMA

**Validation of
Informal Learning in
Mobility Actions**

VILMA Rationale

Mobility is a means to promote personal and professional development and contributes to the creation of a true European area of education and training. The European Quality Charter for Mobility puts major emphasis on the evaluation, recognition and certification of both formal and informal learning in mobility actions.

However, it is rather difficult to evaluate and validate the acquired competences herein, since a great deal of mobility learning activities consist of (rather unplanned) informal learning activities taking place in everyday life of the learners outside their habitual living and learning contexts.

VILMA intends to tackle the issue by providing instruments to assess and evidence competence development in mobility actions.

VILMA builds on the experience gathered in three EU-funded projects carried out from 2005-2010 (ACT!, ACT-NET and VIP). During these projects a unique approach to evaluate and evidence informal learning has been developed and applied in more than 40 micro-learning projects in twelve European member states.

VILMA seeks to transfer and adapt the approach and its instruments to European mobility actions and to create a comprehensive evaluation system specifically feasible for various mobility actions.

VILMA Project Objectives

VILMA focuses on evidencing competences that participants gain in mobility actions. The individual evidence of learning increases the motivation to participate in such actions, to bring the learning outcomes to participants' mind, and to reflect on new ways of learning in the future.

VILMA aims to display the impact and quality of the learning processes in mobility actions by using an approach which offers utmost flexibility and which is especially suitable for evidencing those competences that are difficult to assess with standardised systems, such as interpersonal and social competences.

VILMA contributes eventually to a clearer image of the benefits of mobility actions in the Lifelong Learning Programme and thus to an improved acceptance among potential participants.

VILMA Project Target Groups

VILMA addresses

- ★ adult learners;
- ★ trainers and staff engaged in national and bilateral exchanges and mobility actions;
- ★ managers, partners and other organisational staff of European mobility actions;
- ★ evaluators and validation practitioners;
- ★ experts from the European Commission, National Agencies and political and administrative bodies.

VILMA Project Activities

Main activities carried out in the VILMA-project between January 2010 and December 2012:

- ★ collecting existing approaches and instruments used to validate informal learning; evaluating them in terms of their feasibility for the context of mobility actions;
- ★ investigating the demand for evaluation with regard to competence development in mobility actions;
- ★ establishing an inventory of possible learning outcomes through mobility actions;
- ★ developing reference systems to evidence learning outcomes and competence developments based on the LEVEL5 evaluation system designed for informal and non-formal learning (to evidence learning outcomes on the cognitive, affective and activity related level);
- ★ developing and piloting a European training course aiming at raising awareness for the topic of evidencing and validating informal learning and enabling the participants to apply the VILMA approach in their mobility projects;
- ★ creating a transnational network consisting of experts from research and practice contributing to greater recognition for the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

