

VALERU NEWSLETTER NO.1 *Project Progress and Accomplishments*

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VALERU

VALERU aims to provide a methodological basis for the validation of non-formal/informal learning in Russian HE, based on European approaches. Integrating learning outcomes from non-formal/informal learning into Higher Education is an invaluable resource in the context of the fast changing needs of the labour market and the development of LLL in general. The main goal is to train future validation experts in all Russian regions, so these experts can act as change agents. They train the staff at their universities

and therefore the idea and knowledge concerning validation non-formal and informal learning can spread throughout Russia. This project is an exercise in change-making. The VALERU project is funded within Tempus as a national structural measure and is based on a strong cooperation between European and Russian HEIs & HE networks leading in the field of validating of non-formal/informal learning as well as networks of SME and professional associations.

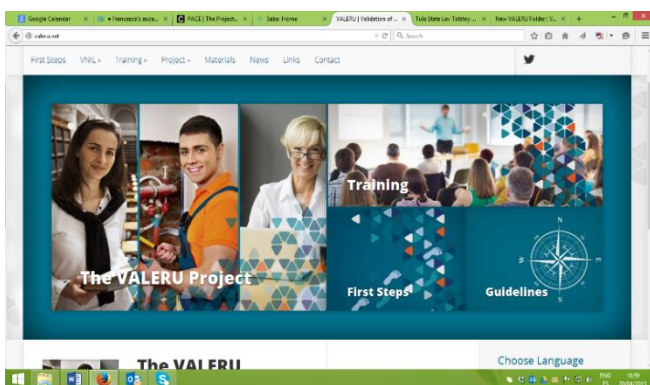
COUNTRY REPORTS ON VNIL PRACTICES

In a first project phase, project partners have conducted a thorough analysis of the existing validation system in Russia and European universities (UK, FR and AT). The country reports are already online on www.valeru.eu under the section on VNIL Practices and also partly translated into Russian. The remaining translations will follow soon.

Also VNIL guidelines, processes and methods can be read online under the VNIL section. The information provided on the website derives from the project's results of the detailed research on VNIL methodology.

DEVELOPMENT OF VNIL-PLATFORM

One of the main aims of VALERU is the establishment of a platform concerning the validation of non-formal/informal learning in HE. The VALERU platform supports the change-making process and the dissemination of methods, guidelines and training opportunities in the Russia. The platform would function at both national and institutional level, and works as a network between universities. To develop it, project partners have conducted a comprehensive needs analysis on the ideal conceptual design of the VNIL-platform. The outline of the conceptual design has been developed and finished. The platform has been recently presented to all project partners and will be improved within a formative process over time. Keep following [VALERU website](http://www.valeru.eu) not to miss its launch!



TRAINING OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS

Within the frame of the project, one fundamental step will be represented by the training of qualified experts (peers) in new advanced VNIL system. The project will identify competences of the future VNIL experts, develop special training programmes for them, and will pass their accreditation.

As part of this process, the European partners of the VALERU project have explained their validation models to Russian partners. Virginie Ribaud, of the University of Brest (FR), introduced the roles of the actors within the model of “*credit assignment*”, while Jon Talbot, of the University of Chester (UK), introduced the roles of the actors within the model of “*learning development*”. More information on these different validation systems is available on [VALERU website](http://www.valeru.eu).

The main task of the EU-partners, though, is to forward the knowledge/expertise about validation methodology and validation procedures in Europe. RU partners will now use this knowledge to implement their own

procedures at their universities and develop their own VNIL practices.

The first **training of experts** was held in Tula (RU) on 20-22 May 2015. The target groups were faculty managers, admission officers and academic managers. Basic topics of the training

were the theory of validation (learning outcomes, European qualification framework, informal/non-formal learning) and validation of work based learning. To know more visit [VALERU](http://www.valeru.eu).



DANUBE UNIVERSITY HOSTED 3RD PROJECT MEETING

From February 25 to 27, 13 representatives from 13 consortium members met for the biannual consortium meeting. The workshop was hosted by Danube University in Krems. The partners had focused on the preparation of the first training session, which took place in Tula from May 20 to 22. As a first step towards sustainable training platform, the VALERU public website has been extended. The didactical concept for this extension was also a task at the project meeting. In addition, the necessary procedures for the mid-term report to the European Commission were also started in Krems.



CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

- [Danube University Krems](#), Austria
- [Berlin University of Professional Studies](#), Germany
- [University of Chester](#), United Kingdom
- [Université de Bretagne Occidentale](#), France
- [European University Continuing Education Network EUCEN](#), Belgium
- [Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation](#), Russia
- [Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography](#), Russia
- [Moscow City Teacher Training University](#), Russia
- [Agency of Educational Strategies and Initiatives "Bologna Club"](#), Russia
- [Ufa State University of Economics and Service](#), Russia
- [Prof. Qualifications Development Agency of the Republic of Bashkortostan](#), Russia
- [Tula State Lev Tolstoy Pedagogical University](#), Russia
- [All Russian Non-governmental organisation of small and medium business "OPORA RUSSIA"](#), Russia.