	ValidVol – Validation of Volunteers	
VALCoVOL		Erasmus+

Original language: English	Country: United Kingdom	Source: North West Regional College United Kingdom	Link: https://validvol.eu Handbook: https://validvol.eu/files/docs/deliverables/validvol_handbook_EN.pdf Diary: https://validvol.eu/files/docs/deliverables/validvol_diary_EN.pdf (access date: 10/05/2017 and 09/08/2017)
Target group ◯ Teacher / trainer ◯ Counsellor ◯ Social worker ◯ Youth worker ◯ future employer ◯ other: volunteers 50+	**Type of best practice** ◯ tool ◯ initiative/campaign ◯ project ◯ website only ◯ programme ◯ model ◯ training X learning material X other: handbook		**Experiences** ◯ available for more than 5 years X available for less than 5 years ◯ pilot phase / testing ◯ in development ◯ unknown

Summary:

ValidVol (Validation of Volunteers) had been launched 2014 – 2015 to recognise and accredit learning and skills development of individuals working in the voluntary sector. The project was funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme under the Grundtvig sub-programme and involved five European partner countries: Italy (UniTS), Spain (Agora), Greece (KMOP), Austria (BFI) and the United Kingdom (NWRC). It contributed to the creation of systems, models and schemes which validate and clearly identify the key competences gained from their experience as volunteers. The target group of ValidVol consisted of senior volunteers aged over 50 who are involved in voluntary services and wish to reinforce their employability, because they are either retired, under employed or unemployed. The project looked into the significant experiences of non-formal and informal learning through volunteering across Europe, and motivated senior volunteers to be involved in further adult learning activities, which were expected to facilitate or improve their employability. The ultimate goal of the ValidVol project was to develop a system to validate the key competences acquired during senior volunteering.

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Description:

"ValidVol" intended to increase the employability of people aged over 50 by encouraging them to take up volunteering as a way to provide a social service to the local community, but also as a widely recognised non-formal and informal learning experience through the certification of key competences acquired during the service. More specifically, the objectives of the project were:

1. To create a model of validation of key competences acquired during senior volunteering and to test it;

2. To promote the acquisition of key competences through senior volunteering;

3. To set up a European system of recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal

learning by people aged over 50;

4. To promote the exchange of good practices at European level on validation of key competences in non-formal and informal learning for people aged over 50.

The ValidVol Handbook has been produced as a guide to help with the process of recognising and accrediting the skills and competences people gain through volunteering. It includes effective strategies and concepts that can be used to enhance the learning process and improve employability prospects. The handbook also includes a brief synopsis of recent research in relation to volunteer learning and lists some useful reference documents. It lists eight key competences and an analysis of how these are applied to the ValidVol process which is then described in detail. The Handbook contains comprehensive resources including innovative tools and activities to be used as part of the process. Please click here to download the ValidVol Handbook.

The ValidVol Diary is meant to support volunteers' reflection on learning achievements during a voluntary service. It can be used during the ValidVol process and it will be a tool for guiding volunteers through the self-assessment of the Key Competences. Please click here to download the ValidVol Diary.