



INTRODUCTION TO THE FRENCH SITUATION REGARDING CASE STUDY

Since the publication of the law on Validation of experience (VAE) in 2002, the validation of non formal and informal learning process has known a considerable development in France. As validation is recognised as a way to obtain an official qualification, registered in the RNCP (Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles), the national list of qualifications, the educational institutions delivering programmes leading to qualifications registered in the national list are obliged to set up a procedure making possible validation.

So it is difficult to extract from the diversity of practices examples that could be considered as case study. Our bias is to offer access to different sources likely to provide useful information on the current state of play at national and regional level.

1 National level

To federate the policies of the different ministries on a common project, exchanging best practices and exchanging tools (for instance a Charter for guidance), producing reports, and to guide the initiatives of Regions, a “Comité Interministériel pour le Développement de la VAE” (Interministerial Committee for VAE development) has been set up in 2006.

A website, translated in English and Spanish, proposes a general introduction to VAE (www.vae.gouv.fr), a glossary and a presentation of the official regulation. This website establishes links with the websites of the different ministries implied in VAE process.

2 Regional level

At regional level, the State recommended the establishment of Regional Committee having notably the following missions:

- to share and disseminate the tools elaborated by the Interministerial Committee;
- to propose to institutions in charge of information, guidance and counselling an updated information;
- to identify and share best practices

In addition all French Regions have now set up a “Cellule Régionale Interservices” (Inter-Services Regional Unit). They have four main missions:

- to produce and disseminate at regional level an updated information on VAE and qualifications;
- to coordinate the different locations where individuals and companies may find information on validation;
- to disseminate an updated information on VAE towards all institutions having a mission of information regarding education and training, employment,...;
- to constitute a bank of resources;

- to help socio-economic actors to integrate VAE in human resources management and local employment policies.

Each Region has designed a website presenting the regional organisation of VAE, the practices developed by educational institutions, useful documents, reports, bibliography, statistics,...

- Alsace www.carif-alsace.org
- Aquitaine www.aquitaine-cap-metiers.fr
- Auvergne www.formationauvergne.com
- Bourgogne www.c2r-bourgogne.org
- Bretagne www.gref-bretagne.fr
- Centre Val de Loire www.alfacentre.org
- Champagne Ardenne www.vae-champagne-ardenne.com
- Corse www.fiore-corse.net
- Franche Comté www.efigip.org
- Ile de France www.infovae-idf.com
- Languedoc Roussillon www.vae.cariflr.fr
- Limousin www.prisme-limousin.fr
- Lorraine www.inffolor.org
- Midi Pyrénées www.cariforef-mp.asso.fr
- Nord Pas de Calais www.vae-npdc.fr
- Basse Normandie www.espace-regional.info
- Haute Normandie www.crefor.asso.fr
- Pays de la Loire www.carifpdl.asso.fr
- Picardie www.cr-picardie.fr
- Poitou Charentes www.arftlv.org
- Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur www.vae-paca.org
- Rhone Alpes www.rhonealpes-orientation.org

3 Higher Education

All French universities and a large part of HEIs are applying the 2002 law. The Association of Directors of University Continuing Education Services has set up a working group which has worked for years to help French universities to implement this demarche. This group organises training sessions for secretaries in charge of reception, for advisors, for members of juries, produce tools and contribute to general reflection.

This group has selected a range of initiatives which has been launched in the recent years. They are presented below.