



## The Lithuanian 2009, case study of higher education sector

### ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION OF NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING AT MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY

The case study	Evidence, material – Possible content
<u>The context</u>	
<b>In which sector is it taking place?</b> <b>In which organisation is it taking place?</b>	Higher education sector MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY Link: <a href="http://www.mruni.lt">www.mruni.lt</a>
<b>The background to the case study/ a landscape of the case study</b>  <b>Impact on NFL-IL processes in university: prehistory</b>	<p>The project „Assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning for university studies“ coordinated by Mykolas Romeris University with participation of three partner institutions, including Klaipeda University, Vytautas Magnus University, and Sauliai University was successfully completed in 2008.</p> <p>The project was aimed at contributing to labour force qualification enhancement under Priority 2 “Human Resources Development” of Single programming Document, and to widening the sector of science and study as well as creating lifelong learning conditions under programme 2.4. “Development of Lifelong learning Conditions”. The system of assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning at the university, developed as result of the project, creates favourable conditions for adults to gain higher education and adapt to the needs of the dynamic labour market.</p> <p>During the implementation of the project, in December 2006 – January 2007 a representative empirical research on adults’ needs of assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning at the university was carried out in four regions of Lithuania, including Vilnius, Klaipeda, Kaunas and Siauliai. The participants (n=1253) of the research were adults who gained their learning achievements through different non-academic learning environments. The results of the research revealed that in Lithuania there existed adults’ needs to have their learning achievements formalised at the university, and adults had positive attitudes towards the new possibility of having their learning achievements assessed and recognised at university.</p> <p>The data collected for the empirical research were analysed from different perspectives. The impact of respondents’ age, gender and education on their attitudes towards recognition of their learning achievements was established. The research identified how respondents’ attitudes towards the possibility to formalise learning achievements were influenced by on the job related or unrelated to respondents’ formal qualification, satisfaction with their formal position, the salary and career opportunities. The analysis of learning environments proved that, in Lithuania, the work environment and institution of non-formal education made the biggest contribution to the development of learning achievements.</p> <p>Having analysed and generalised the European Union and Lithuanian documents of educational strategy and the related scientific literature, as well as having got acquainted with the good practice of foreign universities assessing and recognising</p>

	<p>learning achievements of non-formal and informal education, the system of assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning at the university was developed.</p> <p>It included the procedure and stages of recognition as well as models and principles of assessment. The system was evaluated by three experts from Lithuania and one expert from abroad, and their conclusions declared the system as an applicable one for university studies in Lithuania.</p> <p>In October 2007 an experiment was carried out at Mykolas Romeris University, during which the portfolio, as the main method of the assessment and recognition, was piloted. To carry out the experiment, portfolio development seminars “Electronic portfolio assessing non-formal and informal learning” for target groups were provided with the aim to teach adults to describe their own learning achievements’ in a portfolio. There were 80 target groups members invited to the experiment who during the diagnostic research had expressed an interest to participate in it.</p> <p>Four piloting modules and sample portfolios were prepared for the seminars on the basis of the four study subjects delivered at Mykolas Romeris University: general foreign language, social work methodology, psychology and strategic management. Those study subjects were chosen after the consideration of the results of the diagnostic research which proved that those were the areas in which the respondents had the most learning achievements.</p> <p>The research on the influence of the portfolio development seminars allows to draw the conclusion that adults have gained knowledge on non-formal and informal learning, evident through the portfolio method for assessment of non-formal and informal learning. They also have learned how to identify, generalise and describe learning achievements as well as prepare a portfolio, and they have learned to reflect on their learning experience and improved their CV writing skills.</p> <p>The final stage of the project was publishing a handbook “Assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning at the university studies” and presenting it to Lithuanian academic community as well as to the target groups in four universities of Lithuania – Mykolas Romeris University, Klaipeda University, Vytautas Magnus University, and Sauliai University.</p> <p>Having completed this project, Mykolas Romeris University contributed to a very significant process in the academic community of Lithuania, i.e. preparation of universities to assess learning achievements gained in a non-academic environment. On 1 October 2008, the university introduced the system of assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning achievements which would encourage adults with learning achievements gained in different learning environments to use the opportunity to open the door to university study.</p> <p><i>Source: Nijole Burksaitiene, Jolita Sliogeriene (2009). Assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning at Mykolas Romeris University. The Quality of Higher Education, 2009, No. 6, Vytautas Magnus University.</i></p>
<p><b>People:</b></p> <p><b>VNFL-IFL candidate (s)</b></p>	<p>Registration of candidates for the procedure of assessment and recognition of the learning outcomes acquired through non-formal and informal learning environments at the University started on 01 October 2008.</p> <p><b><i>1. Who is eligible to apply to participate in the procedure of recognition of non-formal and informal learning outcomes?</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adults having no university degree in the area in which they have work experience of not less than 5 years.</li> <li>2. Adults who have a university degree, but whose work experience of not less</li> </ol>

	<p>than 5 years is in the area for which they do not have formal qualifications.</p> <p>3. Adults who have dropped out from university studies and are willing to finish them.</p> <p>4. Adults who are currently unemployed and are either registered or not registered in the local labour exchange offices.</p> <p><b>II. University will recognise learning outcomes acquired:</b></p> <p>(1) in the work-based environment;</p> <p>(2) in the non-paid job environment or through voluntary activities;</p> <p>(3) through self-directed study;</p> <p>(4) in non-formal learning environment in Lithuania and abroad (workshops, seminars, etc.);</p> <p>(5) through leisure activities.</p> <p><b>III. Requirements for candidates:</b></p> <p>1. To have complete secondary education.</p> <p>2. To have work experience of not less than 5 years in the area from which a candidate seeks academic credits.</p> <p>3. To provide evidence of one's learning outcomes proving that they are equivalent to the learning outcomes for which academic credits are awarded.</p> <p><b>Now there are 3 candidates at the university, but procedure is not completed.</b></p>
<p><u>Process:</u></p>	
<p><b>Legislation</b></p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT OF NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING OUTCOMES</b></p> <p><i>Source: "Procedure Of Studies At Mykolas Romeris University", approved by Mykolas Romeris University Senate October 7th, 2008, Resolution No. 1SN-13</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the University non-formal and informal independent learning achievements may be evaluated and acknowledged, including learning in a work environment, learning in informal education institutions or independently, undertaking voluntary activity, etc.</li> <li>• Achievements of non-formal and informal learning are recognised only if determined that they are equal to learning achievements acquired while learning in traditional ways.</li> <li>• It is necessary to have evidence proving what one has learned in an "non-traditional" manner: any certificates or diplomas received in the non-academic learning environment; content of courses participated in; official and unofficial test results or grades; evaluation of practical activity results or grades and confirmation from an employer that the person's skills meet a certain standard, employer's recommendations, samples of work, video material, etc.</li> <li>• The evaluation is undertaken in keeping with certain evaluation criteria. The requirements are provided to the candidates by the Faculties.</li> <li>• In certain cases it is possible that non-formal and informal learning outcomes and recognition may be restricted. They can arise due to: study programmes; subjects; the awarding of maximum or minimum number of credits, which the candidate shall have to accumulate at the University.</li> <li>• Non-formal or informal learning achievements are evaluated by a group of experts made up from Faculty members, and taking into account the course programme or subject.</li> </ul>

• To evaluate the candidate's non-formal or informal learning achievements evaluation models are applied. They are based on one's evaluation method (the portfolio method), or combined evaluation methods integrating several evaluation methods (portfolio and examination, portfolio and written work, portfolio and essay, portfolio and demonstration, and others).

• The Lifelong Learning Centre, Faculties and Departments are responsible for the organisation of the procedure of evaluation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning achievements.

Link:

[http://www.mruni.eu/mru\\_lt\\_dokumentai/direkcijos/studiju\\_direkcija/teises\\_aktai/Studiju\\_tvarka\\_angliskai\\_gera\\_naujausia.pdf](http://www.mruni.eu/mru_lt_dokumentai/direkcijos/studiju_direkcija/teises_aktai/Studiju_tvarka_angliskai_gera_naujausia.pdf)

**Tools/forms**

Candidates are requested to fill in the form of participation 'PROCEDURE OF ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION OF NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING OUTCOMES' (see below); a copy of the form is sent to each candidate after the registration.

**ASSESSMENT OF NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Registration form

<b>Name/names</b>			
<b>Surname</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>City/town</b>		<b>Post index</b>	<b>LT-</b>
<b>Country</b>		<b>Tel.</b>	
<b>E-mail address</b>		<b>Fax</b>	
<b>At present you: [put a cross ( x )]</b>	<input type="radio"/> Have a job <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="radio"/> Do not have a job <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Education [put a cross ( x )]</b>	<input type="radio"/> Secondary education <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="radio"/> High education <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="radio"/> Higher non-university education <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="radio"/> Higher university education <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify).....		
<b>Year and country where education was aquired</b>	<input type="radio"/>		
<b>Work experience</b>	Date: from..... to	Name of institution/company/firm	
	Present place of work	Type of activity	
		Position	
<b>Study programme/ subject you apply for academic credits from</b>			

Link:

[http://www.mruni.eu/en/padaliniai/centrai/akademiniu\\_reikalu\\_centras/nefor\\_ir\\_savaim/index.php](http://www.mruni.eu/en/padaliniai/centrai/akademiniu_reikalu_centras/nefor_ir_savaim/index.php)