



# VINCE Validation Prize 2019

## Announcement and standards

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VINCE | Validation for inclusion of new citizens in Europe  
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The **VINCE Validation Prize 2019** is an award given to the most innovative and transferable initiatives in the area of the Validation of Prior Learning (VPL) and/or Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning (VNIL) in all sectors of education in Europe. The prize will be awarded as part of the VINCE project, with the aims to:

- find inspiring and innovative solutions to help newcomers from other countries (specially individuals with a migrant or refugee status) to get their skills and competences recognised and validated
- showcase the best VPL/VNIL practices
- highlight the excellence of existing projects
- spread the awareness about VPL/VNIL initiatives, especially innovative solutions or approaches, among professionals in this area

By highlighting and publishing best practices in the area of VPL/VNIL, the **VINCE Validation Prize 2019** contributes to change attitudes and practice in the education and employment sectors towards the recognition that learning can also take place outside the formal structures and produce valid learning outcomes. It also gives aid to newcomers with migrant or refugee status to get their knowledge and experience valued.

The 2019 prize follows the initiative of the OBSERVAL and OBSERVAL-Net projects, which awarded a total of 5 **Validation Prizes** in 2009, 2010 and 2013.

This time, VINCE is looking for the **best case study** and will give the three finalists the opportunity to present their practices during the Final Conference of our project, where, afterwards the name of the winner will be announced. The VINCE Validation prize will include a trip to the final VINCE activity in Barcelona (ES) on Thursday 14 November 2019 and the opportunity to present the work in plenary session during the event. The prize will also include a commemorative trophy showing first, second or third post in the inscription as best and most enlightening pieces of work.

**The deadline for the submission of case studies is 10 April 2019.**

Graphic timeline of the VINCE Validation Prize 2019:



## Evaluation criteria

All case studies will be assessed against the following evaluation criteria:

1. **Transferability of the case:** The case study should demonstrate the elements that could appeal to and could be transferred to other countries, situations or candidates. These elements should be outlined in response to this criterion (40%)
2. **Relevance:** The case study should highlight how it is relevant to candidates with a migrant and/or refugee background (30%)
3. **Impact:** The case studies should provide qualitative and/or quantitative evidence of their impact in terms of results, changes in processes, impact on the organisation, impact on the staff, impact on the candidates, etc. (15%)
4. **Sustainability:** It should be clear how the processes and impact of the case studies are sustained and/or how they are integrated into existing structures or processes (15%)

## Why participate in the *Validation Prize*?

- By presenting your best practices, you are publicly valuing your employees and all actors involved in the VPL/VNIL best practice
- The best practices will be showcased in a special section of the VINCE platform
- The three finalists will be officially invited to the Final Award Ceremony in November 2019, and their travel and subsistence costs will be covered<sup>1</sup> (event initially planned to be held in Barcelona on Thursday, 14 November 2019)
- Contributing with your case study to the VINCE platform will be an opportunity to exchange experience and share practices with other VPL/VNIL professionals across Europe
- The three finalists will receive the *VINCE Validation Prize 2019* (showing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the inscription)
- The best cases will be invited to write a full paper that will be included in one of the eucen eJournals of ULLL
- Participation is free, easy and straight-forward

## Who can participate in the *VINCE Validation Prize 2019*?

Trade unions, companies, sectoral/branch organisations, training funds, professional groups or individual workers, NGOs, VET schools, universities, public authorities, institutions of lifelong learning, civil society organisations, social partners, VNIL professionals and researchers who have been or are working in VPL/VNIL. Everybody interested is invited to submit case studies using the **Case Study template** available at <http://vince.eucen.eu>

Staff from the institutions that are partners in the VINCE project are invited to submit case studies but these will not be eligible for the *VINCE Validation Prize 2019*.

<sup>1</sup> The prize will cover tourist class flight/train to Barcelona (up to 350€), one-night accommodation in Hotel Astoria (or similar) and free registration to the Final Transnational Seminar of VINCE. Exact terms and conditions of the prize will be sent to the finalists in summer 2019, when the names of the finalists are announced.

## Winners of the *Validation Prizes* in 2009, 2010 and 2013

**1<sup>st</sup> Validation Prize.** European Forum. Jönköping (SE), 03 November 2009

The winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Validation Prize was the **ECAP Foundation (Switzerland)** with their case study “***INTERPRET: Community Interpreters***”

**2<sup>nd</sup> Validation Prize.** OBSERVAL final dissemination event. Brussels (BE), 13 October 2010

The winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Validation Prize 2010 was **3s Research Laboratory (Austria)** with the case “***Informal Competence Acquisition and Educational Guidance***”

**3<sup>rd</sup> Validation Prizes.** OBSERVAL-Net final dissemination conference. Brussels (BE), 15 October 2013. The winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Validation Prizes were:

- Weiterbildungsakademie Österreich (Austria) with the case “***Recognition of Competences of Adult Educators in Austria and Beyond***” (category “*Bottom-up Approach*”)
- SAVO Consortium for Education, EUedu, Centre for European Education Policy (Finland) with the case “***Validation and Valuation of Learning Expert Training***” (category “*VNIL new profession*”)
- Rockwool (Netherlands) with the case “***VNIL-steered career management and personal development***” (category “*Work-based competence development*”)

All these case studies can be found in the repository of the OBSERVAL-Net website<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [www.observal-net.eu](http://www.observal-net.eu)

## What is VINCE?

VINCE is an ERASMUS+ project that intends to develop training materials for university staff working in processes of Validation of Prior Learning (VPL) and Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning (VNIL) with a special focus on migrant and/or refugee students. The objective is to provide university staff with tools to be more prepared when working with newcomers who want to access Higher Education and want to be more aware and integrated in the European society.



## Outputs

- Peer-learning seminar and transversal analysis
- Updating of VNIL/VPL materials (country profiles and case studies) from the OBSERVAL-Net project (519426-LLP-1-2011-1-BE-KA1-KA1NW) and incorporation in the VINCE platform
- Guidelines for university staff to use when working with newcomers
- Training course for validation professionals that work with newcomers
- Policy recommendations addressed to decision makers at policy level to bring about a more efficient validation system to place
- Award of VPL Prizes to the three best transferable case studies submitted
- Interactive platform that will be useful to university staff, to policy makers and also to the newcomer students looking for help on how to proceed

## The Partnership

- [eucen](#) (BE)
- SOLIDAR (BE)
- Université de Bretagne Occidentale (FR)
- VIA University College (DK)
- Foundation European Centre Valuation of Prior Learning (NL)
- NOKUT (NO)
- Danube University Krems (AT)
- CPZInternational (SI)
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (DE)
- Fachhochschule Burgenland (AT)
- University of Pécs (HU)
- International Vrouwen Centrum Den Helder (NL)
- Club for UNESCO of Piraeus and Islands (GR)

**For more information, please visit <http://vince.eucen.eu> or contact us at [vince@eucen.eu](mailto:vince@eucen.eu)**

