



# NEWSLETTER

issue 1/2017

## Welcome!

### 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 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 (HE) and want to be more aware and integrated in the European society.

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## Peer Learning Seminar

The full partnership of VINCE met in Barcelona for first time 26-27 March 2017.



The main objectives to achieve during this meeting were to know each other, work together and share the experiences and data collected in the preliminary phase of the project with colleagues.

In this first transnational encounter partners learnt much from each other and about the situation in relation to validation of prior learning and about refugees in Europe. Some key problems were highlighted at different points of the seminar by different partners and pointed out as crucial issues to understand the situation of newcomers: language barrier, traumatic and sad experiences, wish to return back home, waiting bureaucratic period that leads to boredom, missing sense of belonging, cultural diversity, lack of documentation. A full report has been produced after the meeting.

The next meeting of VINCE has been programmed for 09-10 October and will be hosted by Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich (DE).

## First formal workshop of VINCE



**VINCE** Validation for Inclusion of New Citizens of Europe

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**Expected outputs**

- Peer-learning seminar to prepare the work team responsible for the national work
- Updating of VNI/VPL materials from previous projects, especially from the project COSMOS (call 5-19428-LLP-1-2011-1-BE-NA1-KA1NW)
- Guidelines for university staff to collaborate 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 Prize to the best candidate case study submitted
- Interactive platform that will be useful to university staff, to policy makers and also to the responsible students looking for help and how to proceed

**How to get involved?**

If you are interested in VPL/VNI processes, if you are working with refugees or migrants and see some interesting points in our project objectives, maybe you want to get involved. You can do so in different ways:

- Subscribe to the newsletter and be informed of what we do. You can request it to: [vince@eucen.eu](mailto:vince@eucen.eu)
- Become an Associate Partner. Your suggestions and financial contributions is needed! But you will be the first to be informed and consulted. Contact us at [vince@eucen.eu](mailto:vince@eucen.eu) and we will tell you how to proceed.

**Partnership**

eucen (BE) | SOU (AR) | Université de Bretagne Occidentale (FR) | MA University College, DPC Foundation (European Centre for Quality Assurance) (NL) | NIKKEI (DE) | Danube University Krems (AT) | IFA International (DE) | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (DE) | Hochschule Burgundland (AT) | University of Pavia (IT) | International Institute for Career Development (NL) | GUB (DE) | Hochschule of Pinar and Islands (GR)

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eucen and Fachhochschule Burgenland presented formally the project in a full workshop session during the 49<sup>th</sup> eucen Annual Conference in Mainz (DE) on Thursday 08 June 2017.

With a participation of 15 people from 12 different institutions, the workshop presented both the project and its objectives as well as the draft guidelines that have been prepared, with the objective to collect feedback and opinions about the usability and appropriateness of these tools.

The presentation was well received and the open discussion offered the opportunity to participants to ask more details about the project and the forthcoming activities and outputs. As a consequence of this workshop, some attendants have requested to join the project as **Associate Partners**. Should you be interested to do so as well, please send an email to [vince@eucen.eu](mailto:vince@eucen.eu). The project is open to welcome colleagues interested to be updated with its developments and to contribute in the discussions that it generates.

## VINCE participates in the Swedish Council for HE conference in Malmö

The Swedish Council for Higher Education has organised the "*Refugees' impact on Bologna reform – Recognition of Prior Learning and inclusion in the light of increased migration*" conference at Malmö University (SE).



Swedish Council for  
Higher Education

The conference intended for practitioners, stakeholders and policymakers from EHEA countries was attended by [eucen](http://eucen.eu), in representation of VINCE. Arranged within the framework of the Bologna Working group 2 on Implementation, the event focused on RPL and opportunities for lifelong learning for newly arrived migrants and provided the opportunity for peer learning on procedures and methods for RPL. The participants were presented with examples of good practices within the EHEA on procedures and methods for RPL, with special focus on inclusion and access to higher education for newly arrived migrants. The event has been meant to inspire and encourage HEIs and stakeholders to develop their schemes for RPL and other initiatives.

## What next?



In the following weeks the website the VINCE will be formally launched. You will be invited to visit it and comments will be welcomed to improve the experience.

The website will be available in EN, DE, FR in the near future. At the moment you will have access only to the EN version. This is not going to be an "ordinary" website. It will be a platform where academic staff, policy makers and also potential validation users (students) will be able to find information and materials useful for them. The platform is an ambitious tool. Give us some time and you will sure find it useful!

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## VINCE Partnership

[eucen](#) (coordinators) | SOLIDAR | Université de Bretagne Occidentale | VIA University College | EC-VPL | NOKUT | Danube University of Krems | CPZ International Centre | Ludwig-Maximilians University | Fachhochschule Burgenland | University of Pécs | IVC den Helder | Club for UNESCO of Piraeus and Islands.