

## Netherlands – EC-VPL

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<b>Institution</b>	<b>EC-VPL</b>
<b>Interviewed Person</b>	Zinah (19), refugee from Syria

### **I – Preparation**

Zinah (19) is from Syria. She has been living in the Netherlands for two years. Zinah moved here with her father, mother and three brothers.

“I have a HAVO diploma from Syria. I need to get my diploma valued. I am following a language course for the Dutch state exam. I am almost finished. I want to attend an adjustment school for a year in Utrecht. I will need permission of the UAF”.

### **II – Awareness**

“I am following the competence training (VPL). I am almost finished. After the year in Utrecht I would like to go in the pharmaceutical industry. I want to become a pharmacist. The UAF have to give me permission entering the study. I need to prove I can do it. I need to do the intake test in Utrecht in March, but can only do that if the UAF gives me permission”.

“I have learned that I possess the following competences; I am independent, I am a go-getter, I am eager to learn, I take initiatives, I am caring, reliable and punctual. I want to work on being less shy and standing up for myself. I will work on my mathematical skills, I have studying by myself. I am also going to work on my English”.

### **III – Starting up**

“The VPL training gives me a clear view of where I am now and how I must continue. I know what I want and hope that I can achieve it. I want to become a pharmaceutical assistant because my uncle had ALS and my grandmother passed away because of cancer. That’s when the realisation came that there is no medicine for these two illnesses and that further research is necessary. I felt powerless and want to help make people better”.

### **IV – Documentation and support**

“It is uncertain on which level I will be able to continue my studies. If the UAF supports me and I can follow the adjustment school I would be able to continue my studies on HBO (University of Applied Sciences), or even university if I pass the adjustment year”.

### **V – Assessment**

“At the end of the VPL” training I will have to do an assessment. By following the training I have become more aware of my abilities and knowledge. I enjoyed the training and at times

found it difficult. I have a better understanding of what I am good at, what I need to work on and how I can achieve my goal”.

#### **VI – Impact**

“Which step I take next is dependent on the decision of the UAF, their belief in me and my ability to achieve a place in the adjustment school. The trainer of the VPL training can help be by letting me discover which steps I need to take”.