

Background:

The EURO-ASPIRE RECOGNITION AND VALIDATION PROGRAMME was developed by Artists and Creative Practitioners in collaboration with Cultural Learning Organisations and Academics in Europe. It was designed specifically to address the need for the recognition of skills and knowledge gained non-formally through working or volunteering in Cultural Learning. Cultural Learning occurs across Europe and draws on any arts or creative practice, including cross art-form practices.

Cultural Learning occurs when Artists and Creative Practitioners share their artistic skills with other people in any context. Adults and children engage in Cultural Learning activities for many reasons e.g. to learn artistic and creative skills for employment or recreation; to participate in artistic activities to learn more about themselves or others, or to learn about other topics in an easier or more enjoyable way; to improve well-being, enhance social lives, gain more confidence or support their own personal development.

The Euro-Aspire Framework is a competency-based framework providing profiles of individuals at 3 phases in their careers: industry entry or novice; license to practice or competent; and specialist or proficient;

Individuals use the framework to identify and match incidences of their practice against the competences of a particular profile using the Framework. They may not have previously considered the extent of their own competences in the 3 key areas of activity in practice: technical skills, learning skills and people skills. The Framework mirrors the competences embedded in their tacit practice. Individuals select the 'critical' incidents, activities and artefacts that they consider to demonstrate meeting a specific competence at the appropriate level of the framework using the self-assessment tool. They also engage in a peer review called the Professional Dialogue, a process in which they are asked to explain their own perspective on their practice linking this to the relevant level in the EA Framework. As a direct result of this process individuals can have their non-formal and informal learning recognised and validated.

Transfer of Innovation:

The new pathway for CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR ADVISERS was developed by engaging with Creative Enterprise Practitioners giving advice and support to artists, creative start-ups, cultural and creative businesses use their creative enterprise experience in both commercial and social enterprise settings. This work requires a mixing of creative enterprise knowledge and skills with abilities to effectively and sensitively share these with others. This sharing or knowledge transfer can be for a specified or unspecified purpose in a range of art and non-art contexts, like those referred to above.

INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKING AND MOBILITY IN 2 PATHWAYS: CULTURAL LEARNING PRACTITIONER AND CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR ADVISER

The Euro-Aspire Validation Programme has been benchmarked to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) which means that it will be able to transfer more easily across all European Countries than for example, one which has been developed and designed in one European Country and then subsequently adapted or adopted by another European country. It can therefore, more easily fit into any European National Qualifications Framework as a Professional and Vocational Qualification.

Artists and Creative Practitioners, anywhere in Europe, who have achieved their skills and knowledge through working, volunteering or practising in these 2 roles can have these recognised and validated through the Euro-Aspire Validation Programme.

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