



Leonardo da Vinci

2013-1-FR1-LEO05-48134 AGROSKILL

“Transferring methods for validation of informal learning to VET institutions in the field of sustainable agriculture”

Summary report
Pilot course AGROSKILL
Croatia
(English version)

05/2015

Partner name:

University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture (FAZ)

The course was organised in collaboration with asist. prof. dr. sc. Snježana Tolić (Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek). She is involved in numerous projects dealing with organic agriculture and lifelong learning. Her huge experience has contributed to the quality of the organised pilot course.

The preparation of the pilot course started a month before the pilot course took place through communication with dr. sc. Snježana Tolić, invitations for speakers and stakeholders.

Representatives of the institutions responsible for lifelong learning in Croatia and for the Croatian qualification framework actively participated in the course presentations and discussions.

Pilot course main topic (advertised name):

Agroskill pilot course

Image 1. Invitation for the pilot course

Date and duration of the pilot course:

The pilot course was held on May 26th 2015 in the city of Vinkovci (east Croatia).

The course was organised in 5 contact hours. Attendants were provided with the web page of the Agroskill project as well as with the web page of the Croatian qualification framework in order to additionally study the pilot course subject.

Target audience and the number of attendants to the course:

The pilot course was organised for mixed group of attendants: stakeholders as well as general public. Most of the stakeholders invited to participate to the course responded to the invitation and attended the course.

Table 1. Profile and number of people that attended the course

Profile	Number of attendants
High school teachers (in the field of agriculture)	3
VET institutions representatives	4
University teachers (in the field of agriculture)	5
Representative of the Ministry of science, education and sport	1
Representative of the Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education	1

General public	
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As written in the Report no. 17, formal education in the field of agriculture starts with agricultural vocational schools. Three teachers of a school mentioned in the report no. 17 attended the course. They are involved in an on-going project that develops a new curricula in the field of organic agriculture.

Four representatives of schools offering agricultural training participated in the pilot course. Those are Učilište Studium – Adult Education Institution, Pučko otvoreno učilište Andragog Županja, and SMR Consulting.

Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek (PFOS) is the only higher education institution in the eastern part of Croatia and they organise postgraduate studies in the city of Vinkovci. Five PFOS teachers /scientists dealing with organic agriculture and rural development actively participated in the pilot course with their presentation and discussions.

Representatives of two institutions responsible for lifelong education and validation of previous skills and knowledge also actively participated in the pilot course (Ministry of Science, Education and Sport and Agency for Training and Education).

20 persons from general public attended the first part of the pilot course (oral presentations).



Pilot course units:

The pilot course was divided into two main units: oral presentations and discussion. The course started with the introduction to the Agroskill project, its background, goals, expected results and main activities and project team members. The introduction was made by Marija Cerjak, a project coordinator in Croatia.

In the following presentation, Marina Tomić, collaborator on the Agroskill project, presented results of the WP2 and WP3.

A representative of the Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education explained three forms of education: formal, non-formal and informal and with many examples showed the importance of validation of previous non-formal and informal learning. The presentation finished with a short discussion.

Ph.D. Snježana Tolić (a pilot course organiser) gave a very interesting presentation in which she presented several projects in the field of organic agriculture mentioning non-formal courses that were taught within these projects.

The first part of the pilot course finished with two presentations: “Lifelong Learning Needs in the Field of Agriculture in Croatia”, a result of a research done for the TEMPUS project LifeADA (*lifeada.sistemi.hr*) presented by Marija Cerjak and presentation of the Methodology for the process of identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning (Result no. 18).

After break, stakeholders went to a meeting room where they discussed about lifelong learning, especially organic agriculture. Project representatives presented a draft of a National implementation strategy for converting current non-formal courses into formal courses, and validating the previous learning (Result no. 19).

Representative of Ministry of Science, Education and Sport Sanja Süto presented the Croatian Qualifications Framework (CROQF) in lifelong learning. According to Ms. Süto part of the competencies that we need for the labour market we cannot acquire with formal education. Employees of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport are currently preparing Regulation of recognition of non-formal and informal learning. During the discussion participants were informed about the process of recognition of skills and competences. In order to validate some skills and competencies they must be first introduced into the Register of CROQF. The Croatian Qualification Framework Act came into force in 2013. Recently Regulation about Register of CROQF also came into force.

Participants agree on the need to change the curriculum in secondary schools and at university level because these programs are not in line with labour market needs. It is important to examine the needs of the labour market and on this basis create new programs. Also, the projections should be planned for up to 15 years in order to be in line with international and local labour market needs.

The procedure of recognition of knowledge and skills:

1. ask employers about their needs, after research design standards of the profession, which is in charge of the Ministry of Labour
2. create a list of competencies that an individual should have
3. the applicant proposes Qualification standard for registration, and with it comes a list of tasks and competences that an individual should have. Next step are Sectoral councils (8 sectoral experts) - public calls are now open. If standards are accepted by Sectoral councils that standards goes in the Register. Entering the Register is voluntary but must satisfy the criteria prescribed in the Regulations.

Representatives of the Agricultural and Forestry School in Vinkovci presented the new pilot curriculum - Agrotechnician, which was introduced last year and was very successful among high school students.

Ph.D. Tolić emphasizes needs of the labour market that are not aligned with current education. Ms. Süto highlights the possibility of modulation provided by the Croatian Qualification Framework Act. The qualification can be partial or full. A full qualification refers to a qualification complying by itself to conditions for access to the labour market and/or further education, respectively. A partial qualification refers to a qualification that does not comply by itself to conditions for access to the labour market and/or further education, respectively. It complies to conditions only if accompanied by a respective full qualification, or by one or various respective partial qualifications, according to a full qualification standard.

Teachers/experts emphasised the problem of teachers not interested in the lifelong learning. Ms. Süto stressed how important it is to educate teachers about importance and implementation of lifelong learning. The importance of dissemination of knowledge was also underlined at the meeting.

Representatives of institutions for adult education pointed out a problem that farmers currently cannot prove and validate their skills; so they would need to follow full retraining programmes which last 9 months. However, farmers do not have time for long-term education, so they rather do not enter any training courses. Validation of existing knowledge and skills would allow farmers to follow only some parts /modules of retraining in order to get the full accreditation.

During the discussion was pointed out that in the future implementation and evaluation of skills will be separated. There will be institutions that will exclusively carry out education and others that exclusively validate the acquired knowledge and skills, although some institutions (eg. Faculty of Agriculture) will at the same time educate students but also validate their acquired knowledge.

The discussion ended with emphasizing the importance of lifelong learning, as well as the importance of practical work.

Pilot course location:

The pilot course was organised in Vinkovci, at Faculty of Agriculture, J. J Strossmayer University of Osijek. At this location are organised postgraduate studies in the field of agriculture.



Address: Faculty of Agriculture Vinkovci
Gencherova 16
Vinkovci, Croatia

Overview of the questionnaires of participants

Two different questionnaires depending on the profiles were made. The first one was aimed at teachers/experts. This questionnaire poses that these profiles will be, in the future, evaluators and validators of non-formal and informal learning.

The second questionnaire was delivered to General Public and was aimed at a scenario where these people can be, in the future, applicants in a process in order to evaluate and validate their non-formal and informal learning.

The questionnaires were not mandatory. Therefore, some students declined to do it. Finally, 11 questionnaires from teachers/experts and 15 from General Public were collected.

Both questionnaires are structured in 3 sections:

1. Questions about the Course. 4 questions in order to evaluate the quality of the Course and its contents.
2. Questions about evaluation and validation topics. 5 questions, some of the with multi-answer, in order to know the opinion about the evaluation and validation process and what would be the best (or easiest) actions to make.
3. Personal information concerning experience and training of respondents.

In the following table, a summary of scores obtained in each questions is showed. For questions whose outcome was numeric, average has been calculated. For questions whose had several answer options has been calculated the percentage of people who have chosen each option. For the third part, has just been revealed what is the most repeated answer about training and experience

Table 2. Summary of the questionnaires

TE AC HE RS / E XP ER TS	Question	Average / %		
		Yes	No	Unknowns
		1,1	3,18	
	1,2	4,55		
	1,3	4,82		
	1,4	4,64		
	2,1	45,5%	54,5%	
2,2	2,2,1	63,6%	36,4%	
	2,2,2	63,6%	36,4%	
	2,2,3	63,6%	36,4%	
	2,2,4	45,5%	54,5%	
	2,2,5	63,6%	36,4%	
2,3	2,3,1	18,2%	36,4%	45,5%
	2,3,2	36,4%	27,3%	36,4%
	2,3,3	18,2%	45,5%	36,4%
	2,3,4	27,3%	63,6%	9,1%
2,4	2,4,1	45,5%	54,5%	
	2,4,2	27,7%	27,3%	
	2,4,3	45,5%	54,5%	
	2,4,4	54,5%	45,5%	
	2,4,5	81,8%	18,2%	
	2,5	100,0%		
	3,1	High Technical School (9,1%) University 1 st Degree (36,4%) University (Master) (18,2%) University (PhD) (36,4%)		
	3,2	Formal education (36,4%) Research Institution (9,1)		

GE NE RA L PU BLI C	Question	Average / %		
		Yes	No	Unknowns
		1,1	1,40	
	1,2	3,53		
	1,3	3,07		
	1,4	3,07		
	2,1	53,3%	46,7%	
2,2	2,2,1	13,3%	86,7%	
	2,2,2	80,0%	20,0%	
	2,2,3	53,3%	46,7%	
	2,2,4	80,0%	20,0%	
	2,2,5	33,3%	66,7%	
2,3	2,3,1	46,7%	20,0%	33,3%
	2,3,2	40,0%	20,0%	40,0%
	2,3,3	33,3%	26,7%	40,0%
	2,3,4	28,6%	28,6%	42,9%
2,4	2,4,1	33,3%	66,7%	
	2,4,2	86,7%	13,3%	
	2,4,3	40,0%	60,0%	
	2,4,4	73,3%	26,7%	
	2,4,5	60,0%	40,0%	
	2,5	73,3%	26,7%	
	3,1	High Technical School (40,0%) Vocational Education (6,7%) University 1 st Degree (53,3%)		
	3,2	Student (93,3%) VET (6,7%)		

		VET (36,4%) Ministry and local / regional authorities (9,1%) Nongovernmental/Nonprofit organizations (9,1%)
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As regards to **Teachers/Experts**, the following conclusions can be exposed:

- They have a **low knowledge** about European program for validation of prior learning outcomes.
- In general, they **give medium score** (>4) in terms of the given information and expectations of workshop
- Even 45,5% of experts had already the need of assessing prior learning outcomes
- Before the Pilot Course, **the most unknown method of evaluation was the theory test** while with other methods they were relatively familiar.
- **All of them** plan to introduce the possibility of validation and accreditation of prior learning (non-formal/informal) for their customers
- **The most common training in this profile is the University (1st Degree) and University (PhD)**
- They have mostly **experience in VET and Formal Education**

As regards to **General Public**, the following conclusions can be exposed:

- They **do not have knowledge** about European program for validation of prior learning outcomes.
- In general, they **give a medium score** (~3) in terms of the increase of their knowledge, the information given and expectations
- **More than half of them have needed to perform a process of evaluation and validation** of knowledge.
- Before the Pilot Course, **the best-known method of evaluation was the practical demonstration and Theoretical exam/test**
- Almost half of them consider that the most common problem when validating prior non-formal and/or informal learning outcomes is that application documents are not in English/local language
- The most of them (73.3%), once made the Pilot Course, **would be willing to request or undergo a** process of evaluation and validation of knowledge.
- They are mostly **students**

Questionnaire for OTHERS/GENERAL PUBLIC

1 Questions on the given course

1.1 How familiar were you, before the course, about European program for validation of prior learning outcomes?

(Possible answers 1= not familiar, 5= completely conversant)

- 1 2 3 4 5

1.2 Did you find the given information sufficient?

(Possible answers 1= not sufficient, 5= completely sufficient)

- 1 2 3 4 5

1.3 Was the given information useful?

(Possible answers 1= not useful at all, 5= very useful)

- 1 2 3 4 5

1.4 Did the course meet your expectation?

(Possible answers 1= not at all, 5= completely satisfied)

- 1 2 3 4 5

2 Questions on the topic of validation and assessment

2.1. Did you have the need that your knowledge out of prior learning (non-formal/informal) needed to be assessed?

- Yes No

2.2. What non-formal learning assessments were you aware of before the course?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Practical demonstration | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Oral description/test/exam | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Project description | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Theoretical exam/test | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Expert/employee/boss interview | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

2.3. What are the problems that you think are the most common when validating prior non-formal and/or informal learning outcomes?

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Application documents not in English/local Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| Evidences in Documentations no clear | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| Document issued long time ago | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| Practical demonstration/test needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

2.4. What non-formal learning assessments are you aware of before now?

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Practical demonstration | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Oral description/test/exam | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Project description | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Theoretical exam/test | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Expert/employee/boss interview

Yes No

2.5. Do you plan to validate/accreditate some of your knowledge at an official institution?

Yes No

3. Personal Information - Please assist our efforts by informing us of your experience and training.

3.1 Education/ Background

- High/Technical school _____
- Vocational Education _____
- Polytechnic type (1st Degree) _____
- University (1st Degree) _____
- University (PostGraduate MSc level) _____
- University (PhD level) _____
- Other (please specify): _____

3.2 Sector of Work / Research

- Formal Education (High school, University etc)
- Research Institutions
- Vocational Education and Training
- Industry
- Advisory Services
- Ministries and Local/Regional Administrations
- NGOs / Non Profit Organizations
- OA Certification Bodies
- Other (please specify): _____

Questionnaire for TEACHERS/EXPERTS

1 Questions on the given course

1.1 How familiar were you, before the course, about European program for validation of prior learning outcomes?

(Possible answers 1= not familiar, 5= completely conversant)

1 2 3 4 5

1.2 Did you find the given information sufficient?

(Possible answers 1= not sufficient, 5= completely sufficient)

1 2 3 4 5

1.3 Was the given information useful?

(Possible answers 1= not useful at all, 5= very useful)

1 2 3 4 5

1.4 Did the course meet your expectation?

(Possible answers 1= not at all, 5= completely satisfied)

1 2 3 4 5

2 Questions on the topic of validation and assessment

2.1. Did you have the need of assessing prior learning outcomes already for one or some of your participants?

Yes No

2.2. What non-formal learning assessments were you aware of before the course?

Practical demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Oral description/test/exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Project description	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Theoretical exam/test	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Expert/employee/boss interview	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

2.3. What are the problems that you could identify when you would validate prior non-formal and/or informal learning outcomes?

Application documents not in English/local Language	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
Evidences in Documentations no clear	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
Document issued long time ago	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
Practical demonstration/test needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

2.4. What non-formal learning assessments are you aware of now?

Practical demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Oral description/test/exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Project description	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Theoretical exam/test	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Expert/employee/boss interview	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

2.5. Do you plan to introduce the possibility of validation and accreditation of prior learning (non-formal/informal) for your customers?

Yes No

3. Personal Information - Please assist our efforts by informing us of your experience and training.

3.1 Education/ Background

- High/Technical school _____
- Vocational Education _____
- Polytechnic type (1st Degree) _____
- University (1st Degree) _____
- University (PostGraduate MSc level) _____
- University (PhD level) _____
- Other (please specify): _____

3.2 Sector of Work / Research

- Formal Education (High school, University etc)
- Research Institutions
- Vocational Education and Training
- Industry
- Advisory Services
- Ministries and Local/Regional Administrations
- NGOs / Non Profit Organizations
- OA Certification Bodies
- Other (please specify): _____

List of participants:




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 2013-1-FR1-LEO05-48134 AGROSKILL
 Pilot radionica, Vinkovci, 26. svibnja 2015.

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