

Relevance of the Project

The findings of each of the national reports reviewing the situation of local councillors, corroborate the idea at the heart of the Va2el project: that a local council mandate facilitates the development of valuable skills and competences, and that employers should recognize and value this experience, as well as draw from it when ex-councillors re-enter the labour market. This would serve to strengthen the status and legitimacy of local councils, enhance the re-employment prospects of former councillors and benefit to their future employers.

The Leonardo da Vinci Programme

The Leonardo da Vinci Programme links policy to practice in the field of vocational education and training (VET). Projects range from those giving individuals the chance to improve their knowledge, skills and competences, through a broad approach, to Europe-wide co-operation between training organizations. Part of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme, the Leonardo da Vinci Programme funds a wide range of actions, notably cross-border mobility initiatives; co-operation projects to develop and spread innovation; and thematic networks. The potential beneficiaries are similarly wide – from trainees in initial vocational training, to people already in the labour market, as well as VET professionals and private or public organization. VA2EL is a Transfer of Innovation (TOI) project, based on a former innovative project (Assessing a voluntary experience, www.eEuropeassociations.net) proposing a portfolio for volunteers. The VA2EL project should help to adapt already existing innovative practice proposed in the AVE project for use of a new public, the local councillors.

Project Leader :



The National Institute for Local Development
Contact : Mr. Jean-Francois Pin, Director,
jf.pin@indl.fr



Project Coordinator :



Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering
Contact : Dr Bénédicte Halba, Director,
iriv@numericable.fr



Project partners :



Regional Association of Information for territorial communities
Contact : Valérie Autissier, Director,
v.autissier@aric.asso.fr



Oikodrom – The Vienna Institute for Urban Sustainability
Contact : Dr Heidi Dumreicher, Director,
heidi.dumreicher@oikodrom.org



Association for Adult Education
Contact: Christos Doukas,
cdoukas@aae.org.gr



Università Telematica "Guglielmo Marconi"
Contact : Ilaria Mascitti,
i.mascitti@unimarconi.it



Institute for the Development of Social Sciences
Contact : Agnieszka Hryniewicka,
agnieszka.hryniewicka@irss.pl



The Kaunas Labour Market Training and Counselling Services
Contact : Egle Pauziene,
epauziene@kaunas.idrmt.lt



**A Leonardo Da Vinci project
Transfer of Innovation
Initiated by INDL and IRIV**

www.va2el.eu

A project that values local councillors' experience and addresses following questions :

- *What do local councillors learn during their elective mandate ?*
- *How can they use acquired skills and competences for their professional life ?*
- *How can local councillors increase the learning experience during their mandate ?*



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

More Information on www.va2el.eu

*Ce projet a été financé avec le soutien de la Commission Européenne.
Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique.*



THE VA2EL PROJECT

The project in a nutshell

The project Va2el : Valuing Education and Experience of Local Councillors, funded by Leonardo da Vinci, under the European Union's Lifelong Learning Program, contributes to a greater appreciation and labour market utilization of the skills and competences developed by local councillors. To achieve this, the partners develop a portfolio, with a digital version, an e-portfolio, documenting the councillor's background, skills and competences for recognition on the labour market by prospective education providers and employers.

The project background

Decentralization has become a reality in Europe. Autonomy, competence and responsibility are raising the question of the status of the local councillors in many European countries. New activities are placed under the responsibility of the local authorities and their representatives, the local councillors.

The decentralization process has already taken and is at the moment taking place in the six countries of the project partnership. The process has begun years ago in France; the federal constitution in Austria and the autonomy of regions in Italy were acquired many years ago ; in Greece, decentralization is an ongoing debate, a deep administrative transformation in Poland and Lithuania has been starting since beginning of the 1990's.

The situation of local councillors

VA2EL addresses local councillors serving or having served in local authorities (municipality representatives, mayors, regional representatives). The environment local councillors are working in has become more and more complex although they often have a "volunteer" status. The sole desire to participate actively in the city administrative life is not enough to justify the load of work and responsibility they commit with. Increasingly specialized competences in terms of technique, administration and management capacity are necessary assets for local councillors, who often learn by doing, faced directly to the reality. Despite the significant role and political responsibility they hold for years, they still wonder whether and how can they benefit from the unique experience they have.

VA2EL encourages local councillors to value these special skills and competences in a professional perspective :

It helps :

- to improve their professional career,
- to find a new professional activity corresponding to their new aspirations.

Local councillors in figures

A target group of almost 800 000 local councillors in the six partner countries :

- around 500 000 conseillers locaux in France (82 for 10 000 inhabitants) ;
- almost 42 000 Gemeinderäte in Austria (51 for 10 000 inhabitants) ;
- around 170 000 amministratori locali in Italy (27 for 10 000 inhabitants) ;
- less than 17 000 Δημοτικοί Σύμβουλοι in Greece (15 per 10 000 inhabitants) ;
- almost 43 000 radni in Poland (11 for 10 000 inhabitants) ;
- less than 16 000 tarybos nariai in Lithuania (5 per 10 000 inhabitants).

The portfolio and its digital development, an e-portfolio

A portfolio of competences is a continuous-progress record file, which collects the lifelong acquired knowledge, registers the educations and qualifications. Certifications of newly obtained knowledge can be continuously added. The use of this tool leads to a self-exploration allowing the local councillors to find out what skills and competences s/he has gained during the mandate. It will lead to a concrete action plan. The VA2EL portfolio will be available as a digital file, an e-portfolio, available through the internet to increase its accessibility.

The VA2EL e-portfolio is :

meant to identify :

- the main activities fulfilled by local councillors,
- the skills and competences acquired and/or developed,
- an action plan on the basis of needs expressed
- the training recommended to achieve needs

taking into account :

- the different status of local councillors in Europe (institutional environment)
- the tasks they have to fulfil in the local authorities
- the administrative context (delegation of competences, decentralisation process)

supporting local councillors :

- to acquire a higher self-confidence at work
- to improve their return or situation on the labour market
- to share experience with other local councillors

There will be a digital portfolio, an e-portfolio, together with a guide to fill it for local councillors.