



NEWSLETTER

Issue 4/2019

Welcome!

What is VINCE?

VINCE is an ERASMUS+ project that is developing 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 better equipped when working with newcomers who want to access Higher Education (HE) and want to be more aware and integrated in European society.

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VINCE Validation Prize 2019 – DEADLINE EXTENDED!

We have extended the deadline of the [VINCE Validation Prize 2019](#) up to **Friday, 10 May 2019**. Do not miss the opportunity to submit your case study!

The **VINCE Validation Prize 2019** follows the successful initiative of the OBSERVAL and OBSERVAL-Net projects (2009, 2010 and 2013) and is an award given to the most innovative and transferable initiatives in the area of the Validation of Prior Learning (VPL) and/or Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning (VNIL) from all sectors of education in Europe.



We are interested in receiving practices showing that validation makes a difference, especially illustrating inspiring and innovative solutions to help newcomers (with a focus on individuals with a migrant or refugee status) to get their skills and competences recognised and validated. The three best cases will win a trip to attend the final event of VINCE in Barcelona, 14 November 2019¹.

If you want to submit your case, you only need to download the required **Case Study template** from [this link](#), fill it in and send it to vince@eucen.eu **You have time until 10th May!** You may be one of the winners of the **2019 VINCE Validation Prize!**

VINCE prototype course for validation professionals

Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNIL) is a powerful tool to ensure newcomers and refugees are given the chance to access both education and the labour market in the host countries. However, not all the validation professionals have the knowledge and preparation needed to help this category of learners. One of the reason for this is that there is currently no formal training available for validation professionals.

VINCE has tried to fill this gap by designing the prototype structure of a Continuing Professional Development Course (CPDC) addressed to validation professionals. The course is designed to enable professionals working in Higher Education (HE) to reflect on and improve their practice. It is built around the 5 main stages of the validation process - Information, Identification, Documentation, Assessment and Validation, and aims to give insights and ideas for organising staff training that aims to promote inclusive policy and practice in the validation of non-formal and informal learning in HE, especially focussed on migrants and newcomers. The document has been designed so it can be adapted to any institutional, regional or national environment with flexible timing.



¹ Full details about terms and conditions of this prize are available [here](#).

The VINCE course prototype includes a list of resources which support the course delivery and constitute a package of relevant resource materials. These comprise selected case studies, which are of special interest in the generic course.

The final layout of the generic course prototype is currently under revision. The course will be available on the VINCE website by the middle of May 2019.

VINCE consultation in Thessaloniki (GR)



On Friday, 17 May, the VINCE partners will have a face-to-face consultation in Thessaloniki (GR) with key stakeholders. The main object of the consultation will be the draft policy recommendations developed by the consortium. These will be discussed with representatives of CEDEFOP and other local/regional stakeholders, experts in VPL/VNIL issues, with the aim of taking on board their expertise and refine the content of the policy paper. Before and after this activity, the partners will gather in the 4th project meeting. Both events are being hosted by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

The aim of VINCE policy recommendations is to ensure that policy makers at European, national and institutional levels, take action to ensure the effective implementation of the changes needed in order to make validation procedures more suited to address the needs of newcomers and refugees. The set of revised policy recommendations will be published in the weeks following the consultation in Thessaloniki. Keep following the [VINCE website](http://vince.eucen.eu) not to miss them!

VINCE Final event in Barcelona - **SAVE THE DATE!**

Interested in our project and its outcomes? Would you like to participate to the final event of VINCE? Do not miss this opportunity!

The final event of the project will take place in Barcelona on **Thursday, 14 November 2019**. During the event we will discuss with key invited speakers how to improve access to higher education for newcomers and refugees through validation procedures, and learn from real success cases. The event will be organised just prior to the 2019 eucen Autumn Seminar and a Call for Contributions will be launched in July.

Keep following VINCE website to know more and join us in Barcelona in November!



VINCE Platform

Are you familiar with the VINCE platform? If not, it is time to catch up! The VINCE platform already hosts most of the project outputs, which can be accessed, downloaded and used for free. These include very useful tools to support your everyday work at the university:

- [A set of 33 country profiles](#) explaining the basic features of VNIL in Higher Education in European countries and regions, in relation to migrants and newcomers
- [Case studies](#) illustrating the experiences of validation professionals and refugees regarding validation and recognition procedures
- [5 Sets of Guidelines](#) available in the form of those frequently asked questions (FAQs) relevant to refugees and newcomers and designed to help VPL professionals to support newcomers and refugees in accessing Higher Education and Validation
- A [Library](#) where you can find documents related to validation procedures from institutions and projects from all over Europe.

Being active in VINCE

VINCE is present on Facebook through two different channels:

- A [project page](#) where you find information about the project and updates about project activities and results
- A [discussion group](#) where members can interact and exchange views and ideas about issues related to supporting the access of refugees and newcomers in higher education through validation. This group is for academic & administrative staff in HE, migrants, refugees, new citizens, world citizens and everyone who is interested in inclusion, opening up learning pathways and validation!



Visit these groups and join them – you will be updated with lots of news in the areas of VNIL, migrants and refugees' actions as well as the VINCE periodical updates.

Are you really interested in **VINCE** and our work? Then, why not to become an Associate Partner?! [Contact us](#) and we will send you letter template you can fill in to join us as Associate Partner!

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.