

Promoting the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs: Strengthening individual learning pathways by developing skills assessment tools for workers



Since October 2011, SOLIDAR, DGB-Bildungswerk, SOLIDAR, Abetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF), Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS), and Fagligt Internationalt Center (FIC) are running a joint one-year to develop the individual skills assessment tool for workers.

DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSMENT TOOL

The project aims to develop the innovative individual assessment tools that promote individual learning pathways to bridge skills mismatches (i.e. individual competence valuation and assessment programmes).

Bring together the Trade Union Education Institutes, Workers' Education Associations and Labour Research Institutes in order to exchange best practices and build further on existing examples that enable the upgrading and re-skilling of workers vulnerable to economic restructuring and blue collar workers through individual learning pathways.

Support the social partners in developing the taxonomy of skills, in particular 'soft' skills, enabling the recognition and validation of skills and competences gained through on-the-job training and prior learning, as well as to promote the development of a EU Skills Panorama, EU Skills Passport, European and National Qualification Frameworks and other EU skills provisions.

This project effectively integrates learning and career guidance; lifelong learning pathways that facilitate the transition between phases of work and learning to ensure the re-skilling of workers vulnerable to economic restructuring and blue collar workers.

ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS

DGB-Bildungswerk BUND is the national training organization of the German Trade Union Federation for the general, political and trade union knowledge transfer. Since 1972, DGB Bildungswerk has been providing expertise in employment law, business, social and business cases and challenges, offering knowledge, skills, and certifying expertise of its members. In addition to the seminars and courses, DGB provides a range of specialized courses, and qualification through education and consulting for migrants. More info www.dgb-bildungswerk.de

SOLIDAR is a European network of 52 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs,

international cooperation and lifelong learning. For more info www.solidar.org

Abetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF) is a Workers' Education Association established in 1921, and is the largest adult education association providing transformative learning in Sweden, with an aim to provide with opportunities the less privileged locally and globally, while firmly standing for democracy, diversity, justice and equality. ABF has more than 90 000 study circles, 750 000 participants and close to 3 million study hours each year. We also conduct close to 70 000 culture programmes with 4.8 million participants. More information www.abf.se

AIAS The Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) is an institute for multidisciplinary research and teaching at the University of Amsterdam. Founded in 1998, it brings together the University's expertise in labour studies from the Faculties of Law, Social and Behavioural Sciences, Economics and Econometrics, and Medicine. Combining law, economics, sociology, psychology and occupational health studies, AIAS seeks to foster not only the results of their combined effect, but also to add value to the individual disciplines. Multidisciplinarity is strengthened by AIAS fellows: colleagues in and outside of the University of Amsterdam who are associated with AIAS to contribute to teaching or research at the Institute. For more info www.uva-aias.net

Fagligt Internationalt Center (FIC) is a non-profit organization founded with a vision of improving people's social, economic and democratic rights in Denmark, in Europe and world-wide. The organization works on social and ethnic integration into the labour market and into the society; securing decent working conditions; carries educational activities for young people at the labour market and informational activities. More information www.fic.dk

RECOGNITION OF SKILLS AND COMPETENCES IN THE LIGHT OF THE AGENDA FOR NEW SKILLS AND JOBS

On 20 March at the European Round Table hosted by La Ligue de l'Enseignement, representatives of SOLIDAR Education Experts Network that includes 22 Workers' Education Associations, Trade Union Education Institutes and popular education movements from 18 EU Member States developed a common understanding of the recognition and validation of skills, competences and knowledge acquired in the non-formal environment with relation to the European Qualification Framework.

During the Round Table good practices from France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and exchange on the outcomes of the pilot project - "Promoting the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs: Strengthening individual learning pathways by developing skills assessment tools for workers" developed by DGB-Bildungswerk, SOLIDAR, AIAS, ABF, FIC, and ETUI were presented.

For more information, please consult the event report [here](#)

STEERING GROUP MEETINGS

Members of the project steering group consortium have met in February and March in Brussels and Copenhagen respectively, to discuss the methodology for the assessment of the individuals' competences leading to creating a personal profile and to prepare the European Round Table on the recognition of skills and competences in light of the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs in Paris.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON A RENEWED EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR ADULT LEARNING

The Council of European Union in its resolution (2011/C 372/01) states that there is a need for establishing a fully functioning system for validating non-formal and informal learning, as it represents much of adult learning. Therefore within the priority area for the period 2012-2014, in the European Agenda for Adult Learning, amongst other a following priorities were set:

- Stimulating demand, and developing comprehensive and easily accessible information and guidance systems, complemented by effective outreach strategies aimed at raising awareness and motivation among potential learners, with specific focus on disadvantaged groups, early school leavers, young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs), low-qualified adults, particularly those with literacy difficulties, and followed up with second-chance opportunities leading to a recognised EQF level qualification.
- Promoting the engagement of employers in workplace-based learning, with a view to developing both job-specific skills and broader skills, including by means of more flexible work schedules.
- Promoting flexible learning pathways for adults, including broader access to higher education for those lacking mainstream access qualifications and diversifying the spectrum of adult learning-opportunities offered by higher education institutions.
- Putting in place fully functional systems for validating non-formal and informal learning and promoting their use by adults of all ages and at all qualification levels, as well as by enterprises and other organisations.



The "Promoting the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs: Strengthening individual learning pathways by developing skills assessment tools for workers" project is supported by the European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

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