



NEWSLETTER

Issue 6/2019

VINCE

After three intense years of work, the VINCE project has come to an end. Its aim has been to develop 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 goal was 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.

Content of this VINCE Newsletter

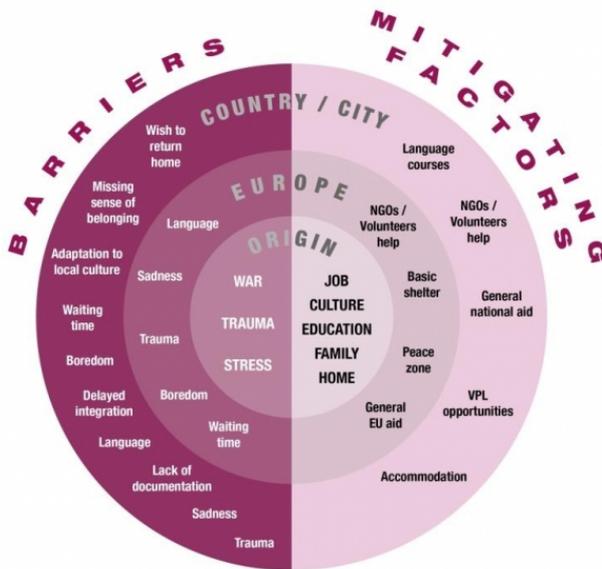
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VINCE outputs and tools

During three years of work, VINCE has enabled a space for discussing and sharing situations and solutions between VNIL professionals and has produced a number of tools for HE validation professionals that work with newcomers. The ultimate objective has been to provide tools that (a) can give newcomers a chance to integrate in our society, (b) can speed up processes and (c) can prepare VNIL professionals to address the mentioned challenges.

These are the **main outputs** produced by VINCE to support validation professionals working with newcomers:



- [Country profiles](#) – the project has revised and updated the country factsheets developed by eucen’s project [OBSERVAL-Net](#) into a new set of 33 country profiles illustrating how VNIL practice and procedures in HE are implemented all over Europe
- [Case studies of validation practices](#) – these documents illustrate experiences of validation professionals and refugees regarding validation and recognition procedures. They are accompanied by a Commentary Report which summarises the main features of the collection and draws key conclusions and recommendations
- [Guidelines for Higher Education staff to help migrants and refugees](#) – these are templates for HEIs, containing frequently asked questions (FAQs) from refugees and migrants concerning 5 different areas (Welcome to Europe, Welcome to this Country, Welcome to Higher Education in Europe, Welcome to this Institution, Welcome to Validation). HE professionals can use the templates and adapt them based on their country’s and/or institution’s specifications. The templates are available in EN, DE, DK, ES, GR, FR, IT, NL, NO, SI, HU and can be downloaded for direct use or adaptation.
- [Prototype Training Course for Higher Education staff to help migrants and refugees](#) – this is a generic Professional Development Course (CPDC) which aims to provide the reader with insights and ideas for developing staff training for validation professionals who work with candidates from other countries during their adaptation processes to our society. It contains references to the other tools developed by VINCE and examples taken from the case studies’ collection. The prototype is available in EN, FR, DE, DK.
- [Policy Recommendations](#) - these recommendations propose ways to deal with the recognition of the skills of newcomers. The document is addressed to policy makers, HEIs/VET institutions and newcomers in Europe with the expectation that the recommendations are taken into consideration and, subsequently, adopted. This document is available in EN, FR, DE.

All the outputs of VINCE are available in the project website <https://vince.eucen.eu/>

VINCE Final Symposium

The VINCE Final Symposium took place in Barcelona on **Thursday, 14 November 2019**. The event was the opportunity to discuss with key invited speakers how to improve access to higher education for newcomers and refugees through validation procedures, and present real success cases. The activity opened with the testimony of [Waed AL KUTEIFAN](#), a refugee who went through a VPL process in the Netherlands. Following her inspiring intervention, the VINCE project and its tools were presented and then further explored in a World Café session: participants had the chance to get familiar and discuss the use of the country profiles, of the guidelines, of the prototype course and of the policy recommendations. The panel of good practices was then held, in which the three 2019 VINCE Validation Prize Finalists showcased the successful examples submitted for the VINCE award.



After the VINCE VPL Award 2019 Ceremony and the announcement of the awards (see post below), the afternoon session merged with the [2019 eucen Autumn Seminar](#), starting with a dialogue between researcher (Renaud MAES, ULB - BE) and practitioner (Charlotte TROELSEN, VIA University -DK) about the complexities and challenges of VPL processes and merging the VINCE Final Symposium to the Autumn Seminar.

To discover more and access all the presentations of both the VINCE Final Symposium and [eucen Autumn Seminar](#), you can visit the [events page](#).

VINCE Validation Prize 2019 – and the winner is..!

The three finalists of the [VINCE Validation Prize 2019](#) selected by the jury presented their case at the **Final Symposium of VINCE in Barcelona, 14 November 2019**:

- **AUSTRIA:** Aleksandra Panek, Counselling Centre for Migrants and AST Vienna. Download the AUSTRIA case [here](#).
- **PORTUGAL:** Daniel Oliveira, Lisbon City Council Qualifica Centre (Department for training and development). Download the PORTUGAL case [here](#).
- **ITALY:** Fausta Scardigno, University of Bari. Centre for LLL for Migrants and Refugees. Download the ITALY case [here](#).



After their presentations, the ceremony took place with the announcement of **Aleksandra Panek, Counselling Centre for Migrants and AST Vienna** as winner of the Award! The three best works all received a commemorative award and their work will be included in the latest issue of [eucen Studies eJournal of ULLL](#).

VINCE policy round table



As part of the exploitation activities organised in the framework of the project, the VINCE policy recommendations were officially launched at the European Parliament in Brussels, on **Wednesday 25 September 2019**, in a European round table where key European policy-makers and representatives of European organisations were invited. The event was co-organised by SOLIDAR and **eucen** with the objective of validating and widening consensus around the policy paper meant to influence policy makers to make special provision for VNIL in general and to improve the newcomers' situation and to give training to professionals attending to newcomers' needs in particular. Key stakeholders from

different sectors (civil society, policy makers or students unions) attended the round table and exchanged impressions about the work done by the project.

VINCE national valorisation events



VINCE also organised **national valorisation events in each of the country partner to the project** to promote the outputs and tools developed and to engage the audience in their use. The aim of the VINCE Valorisations Events has been to inform stakeholders about the results of the VINCE project as well as to support the upscaling of our results.

Contact us

eucen will continue working on the topic of Validation of non-formal and informal learning, through new activities and projects. If you are interested in using the VINCE project tools and you need help, please send an email to vince@eucen.eu

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.