

VIC Newsletter 1

February 2018

Who is VIC?

VIC stands for Validating Integration Competences of refugees and is a two-year European project funded by the Programme Erasmus+ and coordinated by the German partner DVV e.V., Deutscher Volkshochschulverband (German Adult Education Association).

The project is implemented by a consortium of six partners from five European countries: Germany, Italy, Greece, France and Austria.

The aim is to develop an approach to measure the effectiveness of the educational offers that have been put in place to ease immigrants' pathways to integration into the labour market and society in general, on the one hand, and to assess their impact on the individual integration competences of the immigrants, on the other hand.

Hence the project is focusing on the validation of integration competences and VIC is about to develop a validation system for this purpose which is based on the LEVEL5 approach.

First steps



In order to understand the scope of European Integration activities for refugees across Europe the VIC partners firstly carried out a survey on existing integration programmes in different European member states. The results show that most of these programmes relate to linguistic and certain formal citizenship topics. In many cases, there is neither a description of the objectives of the integration programme nor a clear description of the aspired competences within these courses. Therefore, it is very difficult to derive a common definition of what "integration" actually means in each of the courses. Consequently, the aspired „integration competences“ depend to a large extent on the specific course contents and on the knowledge conveyed – but not explicitly on integration activities that lead to skills and development of values and attitudes.

As it turned out to be difficult to derive a common definition of integration competence from the survey results, the VIC consortium started its development programme with an explanatory approach of what integration means: "Integration" is not a one-way learning pathway for migrants and refugees but a process which is at least accompanied but also designed by the local (hosting) population. Hence integration is considered a two-way process, i.e. that not only refugees and mi-













Validating Integration Competences



grants need to possess a number of competences to live in the host society. Also the local citizens need certain competences to cope with challenges related to living in diverse societies.

As a matter of fact, “*learning to live together in a diverse society*” is the principle that will guide the further development in the VIC project and which determines the “integration competences”.

Based on this, the VIC partners have identified a set of basic competences needed to live together peacefully in diverse societies. These are among others:

-  Networking
-  Communication
-  Intercultural competences
-  Flexibility
-  Collaboration for living and learning in a diverse society
-  Social engagement
-  Resilience
-  Willingness to learn
-  Critical thinking
-  Trust/reliability
-  Problem solving
-  Productive autonomy

For each of these sub-competences the VIC partners will develop reference systems to support learning and validation and will establish a catalogue of appropriate assessment methods based on these systems.

Next steps

In the following months the consortium will establish a competence oriented learning and validation approach for integration competences based on the VIC competence framework (competences needed to live together peacefully in diverse societies). This comprises an approach which does not only convey knowledge but also considers capabilities and attitudes as other competence dimensions in the learning offers. VIC aims to promote integration approaches that take on board the principles of constructive, activity related and practical learning.

The next step is to develop a pilot course for adult educators aimed to support them to plan, deliver and evaluate innovative integration learning activities and eventually to validate the integration competences developed in these learning offers.

The course for the professionals will be delivered in blended learning modality (F2F, e-learning and practice project) in autumn 2018

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Website

www.integrationcompetence.eu