



## Self Evaluation of Key Competences: Fostering Adult Lifelong Learning

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### Abstract

“Key competences are the foundation for lifelong learning and success in individuals' careers and professions. The development of key competences has to continue beyond compulsory education, in both initial and continuing VET. [...] The challenge is to achieve the best possible combination of vocational skills and key competences both to a high standard” (Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament - 2011). It lacks a culture of Key Competencies among common people, and their value is not enough valorized. Key competences are often acquired and developed in non-formal and informal contexts; this makes them not assessed nor recognized and consequently not used by adults for their personal development and professional improvement.

A great work has been done at a European level about the strategies and tools for assessing skill and competences; nevertheless, adult educational Systems are still mainly based on traditional models of external evaluation, assessment is often made by trainers and teachers on the basis of quantitative tests and assigned tasks. This is a critical point, since adult learners often refuse this kind of assessment, that they tend to associate to past school negative experience. This affects also the lack of motivation of adult learners to come back in the educational system, both in continuing education and NVAE pathways (European Guide Lines for validating non formal and informal learning - 2009).

The improvement of self assessment culture (for trainers and learners), the development of a tool able to make visible learning outcomes deriving from informal experiences, a framework to describe and acquire awareness of owned key competences, improvement of culture of key competences, addressed both to trainers/experts and learners in NVAE, promotes high performance and represent an innovation in systems and practices in this field.

The proposed digital tool represents an innovative service for self assessment of key competences of adult learners supported by an easy to use ICT based tool for self assessment of key competences, that shall be used to support the design of a plan of personal development of low qualified individuals to face new learning challenges and to support trainers and adult education Institution in their orientation services.

That is what the GRUNDTVIG VINTAGE project “Online tool for self eValuatIoN of key competences in adulT AGE” (Project Number: 527349-LLP-1-2012-1-IT-GRUNDTVIG-GMP - Agreement Number: 2012-4192/001-001) [www.vintage.euproject.org](http://www.vintage.euproject.org) aims to achieve by involving relevant Adult education Institutions at European level: Learning Community (IT); WISAMAR Bildungsgesellschaft gemeinnützige GmbH (DE); die Berater® (AT); STPKC Swedish TelePedagogic Knowledge Centre AB (SE); Meath Community Rural and Social Development Partnership Limited (IE); PLATO - Platform Opleiding, Onderwijs en Organisatie (NL); FORMAZIONE 80 (IT) and starting from the sharing of knowledge and practices about self evaluation of key competences at European level.