

EATI project: a European initiative to promote lifelong learning

A Manual and a Digital Platform to validate and certificate adults' non-formal competences

In last decades, the **labor market** has become extremely competitive due to the increasing request of **competence and expertise, soft and hard skills**. This is even more crucial for **adult people** who face **unemployment** and have to update and strengthen their knowledge in order to be considered valuable resources in comparison to younger generations.

In this context, the Erasmus+ project “**European Adults: Training and Internationalization**” (EATI) aims to provide a **European validation system of non-formal and informal learning**, which is commonly perceived as a key factor in the success of **lifelong learning** strategies. The validation of lifelong learning has several benefits, such as **training low-skilled adults** and other disadvantaged groups, through the identification of their skills and potential.

At **European level**, lifelong learning validation has been systematically promoted and many European States made effort to realize it, enabling adults to assess their knowledge and skills, to assess and validate them and to obtain a full qualification or, where applicable, a partial qualification. From a labor market point of view, the main benefit of EATI project is **promoting the employability of adults** and **solving the skills gap**, whereas from an educational perspective it provides tools that can facilitate and **encourage adults' access to learning resources**, especially for those who do not have formal qualifications, or those who gained expertise through their professional or volunteer experience.

EATI partnership has different backgrounds with partners coming from all over Europe: **Epralima - Escola Profissional do Alto Lima** from Portugal, **E-SENIORS** from France, **Learning for integration ry** from Finland, **Centre Integrat Públic de Formació Professional Misericòrdia** from Spain, **VITECO S.r.l.** from Italy and **Foundation AKTYWNI XXI** from Poland.

Started in the second half of 2017, at this stage the project is going to complete the **Methodological Manual "Balance of Key Competences for Universal School Certification"** addressed to professionals and adult trainers, consisting of tools for European recognition and validation of competences, in order to train adults and make their certification transversal to other Countries. Once the Manual will be ready, it will be tested through a **pilot session** by adult users, in order to evaluate the efficiency of the contents provided and to validate them at European level.

The Manual will be available online and freely downloadable from EATI Digital Platform, which will also provide e-courses based on different training topics, such as **English** (beginner and intermediate level), **Social Entrepreneurship** and **Soft Skills** modules, in order to make adults become more competitive in the labor market. With a simple registration, users will be able to access the platform to start **self-training sessions online available in 6 languages**: English, Portuguese, French, Finnish, Spanish, Italian and Polish. Passing the final test of each training topic, a **certificate acknowledged at European level** will be issued.

From the beginning of the project and for the upcoming two years, all the activities and steps achieved will be promoted through newsletters and EATI social media channels like **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**.

To learn more about the project, visit **EATI website**: <https://www.adultstraining-project.eu/>

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