

## Validation

In **VALLEY** the competences that volunteers develop in their volunteering activities will be validated and evidenced by means of the validation system LEVEL5.

LEVEL5 is specifically designed to assess and validate personal, social and organisational competence developments in rather non-formal and informal learning settings.

It is based on a 3 dimensional approach to validate and evidence cognitive, activity related and affective learning outcomes (learning with head, hand, heart) - the LEVEL5 cube.



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VALIDATION SYSTEM IN  
LIFELONG LEARNING EXPERIENCES  
OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING



[www.valley-eu.org](http://www.valley-eu.org)

## Rationale

The theme of recognition and validation of learning outcomes of informal or non-formal learning is one of the most important challenges for the educational and training sector nowadays.

The volunteering sector represents a very powerful informal learning context, where people of all ages, education, cultural and social backgrounds, have the opportunity to experience different challenging situations, putting into practice their own skills and competences and acquiring new ones. Most of these new competences represent an asset for volunteers in other areas of their life, as for e.g. in their professional career.

**VALLEY** seeks to provide new resources to identify and recognise skills and competences developed by young people during their volunteering experience. Here a special focus will be put on some vulnerable groups, such as NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training) or young people with migration background.

Volunteering will be promoted as a way to also reengage in social life.

## Project Objectives

**VALLEY** aims to enhance the learning dimension of volunteering work by developing a new approach to promote volunteering among young people as a resource of personal empowerment and to validate skills and competences acquired during their volunteering experience.

The project will maximise the transferability of this learning to other dimensions of young people's life to help understand the global benefits of volunteering in terms of social integration and (re)engagement, civic participation, mobility opportunities, discovery of hidden talents etc.

## Target Groups

- ✔ Young people with a special focus on young migrants and NEET young people (not in employment, education or training) who have never experienced volunteering;
- ✔ Staff in volunteering organisations;
- ✔ Evaluators and validation experts.

## Project Activities

The main activities carried out of the 2 year project (03/2015 - 02/2017) by the **VALLEY** team are:

- ✔ Social research on the needs of the volunteering sector in terms of recognising and validating competence developments;
- ✔ Developing and testing the **VALLEY** methodology based on the LEVEL5 validation system with young people in the partner countries;
- ✔ Designing and delivering a training course on the topic of validation of learning outcomes in volunteering services for multipliers working in volunteering organisations;
- ✔ Developing and promoting a European label that shall be awarded to the volunteering organizations that work along the lines of the **VALLEY** validation methodology;
- ✔ Setting up a European community of volunteering organisations and stakeholders to share good practises and make available update information on volunteering opportunities for youngsters.