

Invitation

Validation of Learning in Youth Work Expert Seminar

September 15-17, 2025, in Tallinn, Estonia

Join us to discuss:

What is the state of affairs with the validation of competences developed in youth work and volunteering, in the context of higher education?

What is the potential for enhancing this validation, and how can it be done?



"**Validation of Learning in Youth Work: Expert Seminar**" addresses the questions highlighted above. It aims to envision the expectations on behalf of the youth field towards validation processes, discuss the current state of affairs based on a study report, and develop suggestions for improving the situation. The seminar will include a public discussion streamed online, focusing on the questions of why competence development in youth work and similar environments matters and what would facilitate their validation in universities.

The seminar will gather 30 participants, primarily experts from the four participating countries – Estonia, France, Germany, and Slovenia – and European stakeholders.

The seminar will take place at Tallinn University, located centrally in the city.



Start: at 13:00 (with lunch) on 15.09

Finish: at 13:00 on 17.09

This project is financed by the participating National Agencies (NAs) of the Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps programmes. The Estonian National Agency will organise the accommodation and cover the costs for accommodation and food. Please check with your National Agency regarding the procedure for arranging the booking of your travel tickets and the reimbursement of your travel expenses.

To participate in the seminar, **please register by August 1, 2025**, via the following link: [Registration form](#)

Agenda

Day 1, September 15	Day 2, September 16	Day 3, September 17
Arrivals	9.30-13.00 Morning sessions	
	<i>Presenting the report:</i> the key insights and open questions <i>Reflecting together and completing the picture:</i> exploring what else is out there (on national levels and the European)	<i>Looking forward.</i> Using the insights and conclusions to move forward
	<i>Identifying preliminary conclusions:</i> from the report and the discussions	<i>Action planning:</i> Working towards improving the situation on different levels Mapping stakeholders and the ways we want to reach them <i>Closing</i>
Lunch 13.00-15.00		
Welcome and first connections <i>Defining the framework:</i> perspective(s) on validation from youth/volunteering field	<i>A public panel (streamed online):</i> "Validation of competences acquired in the context of youth work and volunteering activities: State of affairs and steps forward"	Departures
<i>Envisioning:</i> our vision and expectations from the process of validation	<i>Processing:</i> What have we heard and how do we capitalise on that?	
Dinner at 19:00		

Context and further information

With the [Council Recommendation](#) on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (2012), EU Member States were invited to establish arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning. These should enable individuals to have competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning validated and to obtain full or partial qualifications based on validated learning experiences.

Youth work and youth volunteering are part of non-formal and informal learning contexts. Learning in youth work can involve developing skills, gaining knowledge, changing attitudes, and building confidence; it is often facilitated through activities that encourage exploration, reflection, and participation. In the context of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, [Youthpass](#) helps to identify and document that learning.

While [validation arrangements are being established](#) in all EU countries and beyond, it remains challenging to consider the competences acquired in youth work and youth volunteering within these frameworks. To explore the current state of affairs and challenges related to the validation of competences developed in youth work, SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre and the Erasmus+ National Agencies of Estonia, France, Germany, and Slovenia set up a cooperation project, with the focus on validation procedures in Higher Education Institutions in these countries. As part of this cooperation, a study is being compiled, it will be shared with the participants ahead of the seminar. The expert workshop will provide a space to discuss the study's outcomes, reflect on the potential and perspectives on this topic, and consider steps forward.

Further information about the seminar: Kristiina Pernits, pernits@jfemail.de

And the National Agency contact person from your country:

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