

# FORWARD NEWSLETTER



Issue 1/2012  
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## Welcome to the first edition of the FORWARD newsletter!

Forward is an exciting two year (2011-2013) transnational project funded under the Grundtvig action of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme. The

Project number:517538-LLP-1-2011-1-ES-GRUNDTVIG-GMP

Forward project will develop a competence portfolio for the validation of competences of migrant woman, competences gained in all learning contexts– formal, non-formal and informal.

### Lead partner



### Partners



*COMPETENCE PORTFOLIO AND PEDAGOGICAL TOOLS TO IDENTIFY, RECOGNIZE, VALIDATE AND IMPROVE THE COMPETENCES ACQUIRED BY MIGRANT WOMEN IN FORMAL, NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING CONTEXTS*

FORWARD will address the needs of migrant woman by learning from existing good practices of competence-based learning

and validation models and providing a specific pilot-tested competence portfolio and career guidance tools adapted to the experi-

ences and needs of migrant women in the EU, and the very similar obstacles they find to participate in the labour market, despite their heterogeneity as a group.

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### Special points of interest:

- Validation of competences
- Formal, non-formal and informal learning
- Migrant woman
- Development of training materials
- News, activities and events

## Main outcomes of the project

### Conceptual and Theoretical Framework



**Report on existing competence-based models relevant to the needs and characteristics of migrant women.** The report includes:

- A conceptual explanation of competence-based methodologies and its use in adult learning and career guidance programmes for women (theoretical basis, definitions of con-

cepts and justification of the choice of this methodology)

- A description of existing competence-based models which may provide elements catering to the needs of migrant women in adult learning programmes and career services
- A description of the SURT's model for the identification and de-

velopment of women's competences, including instruments such as the competence balance, the map competences and the employability analysis, as well as examples of tools and case studies relevant to its contributions and shortcomings regarding migrant women as target group.

### Country Research regarding the situation of migrant woman

"The specificity of the migration experience of women is a matter for reflection in the construction of the Forward model"

The research carried within the partnership comprised interviews with around 15 migrant women and focus groups with 60 professionals working with them. Interviews used were semi-structured in order to give voice to women and allow free space for open expression and unexpected topics to arise.

The research results can be found in the following products:

Country analysis reports, gathering the results of qualitative research carried out in the 6 partner countries with migrant women and practitioners.

Comparative analysis report. On the basis of the 6 country

reports, this comparative report will state the factors influencing migrant women's employability in the EU and make recommendations on how to assess, recognise and validate their competences, acquired in formal, non formal and particularly informal learning contexts, finding out similarities and differences between the different countries analysed.

### FORWARD Handbook and Toolbox



The **FORWARD Handbook** is one of the main products of the project, and it will contain a conceptual explanation and a description of the FORWARD competence-based model, including the portfolio of assessment and validation of competences and the

practical tools for professionals. Jointly with the Handbook, the **Toolbox** is the other main product of the project. It will include a set of practical such as: self-reflection tools and group discussions of different relevant aspects in the process of compe-

tence development and increase of social inclusion and employability; self-evaluation questionnaires and guidelines to draw every women's own map of competences and analysis of employability; role playing games to identify and practice competences in a variety of contexts; indications on how to prepare a competence-based CV

## News, events and activities

### National Strategic Advisory Group (NSAG)

The NSAG's are a board of 5 experts from institutional, academic and professional backgrounds that participate as external advisors in key project activities (design of model of competences and tools, production of Handbook and toolbox).

NSAGs will also act as external assessors in the evaluation of competences of woman participating in the pilot test.

The NSAGs will meet 5 times, at key moments of the project execution and also act as multipliers.

So far, two of the five meetings were organised in each partner country:

**1st NSAG meeting:** Presentation of the project aims, activities and work plan; Consultation and discussion on the available competence-based models, tools and validation mechanisms suitable to adaptation to the needs of migrant women.

**2nd NSAG meeting:** Presentation of the research results in each country, contribution of the experts to the analysis of the research results, contributions to the future competence portfolio

### Future event: pilot testing with migrant woman

The pilot experiences will assess the applicability of the FORWARD approach. The competence portfolio, competence assessment and validation mechanisms and guidelines, and learning tools included in the draft versions of the handbook and toolbox

(questionnaires, guidelines, individual and group learning activities) will be pilot tested with 150-180 learners (25-30 migrant women in each country).

Participants in the pilot test will be migrant women addressing each organisation for

information or support, or those that can be recruited through the networks of each organisation, with the help of the NSAGs and/or associate partners.

The testing is set to be organised at the beginning of 2013.

“Validation  
of the  
Forward  
model”

### Partnership meetings

#### The start of the Forward Adventure!

The kick-off meeting was held on February 7, 8 and 9 at SURT headquarters in Barcelona.

The meeting has been an interesting opportunity to learn about the different national contexts and work from there to agree on definitions of key terms and lay the foundations of the FORWARD model.

#### The Forward project keeps on walking...

On June 28th and 29th 2012 the second transnational meeting of the Forward project was held in sunny Timișoara (Romania), with the support of the Romanian partner [IREA](#).

After the intense work in the past months on the conceptual model and research phase of the project, the partners were able to share and compare the results of their research on the experiences of migrant women and their competences.



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### The FORWARD partnership

The FORWARD project will be developed by partners in Catalonia (Spain), Italy, Romania, Austria, Finland and Lithuania.

Partners in the project cover a range of organisations of different areas of the EU and different perspectives on the project's topic, including research centres NGO's, adult learning centres or (migrant) women's organisations.

We're on the web!

<http://forwardproject.eu/>

Here is what you can find in the next issue of the FORWARD newsletter...



- ***Pilot experience with migrant woman***
- ***Final version of the Forward Handbook and Toolbox***
- ***More news, activities and upcoming events from the FORWARD project!***