

Press release

FORWARD

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



“The competence capital of migrant women can no longer be systematically ignored and undervalued”

Pilot experiences with migrant woman

Between December 2012 and March 2013, the Forward partnership conducted a **pilot experience** with the aim of testing the Forward model as a methodology for the identification, recognition and validation of the competences acquired by migrant woman in all learning contexts.

The pilot experiences assessed the applicability of the FORWARD approach. Within the pilot testing, the draft versions of the Forward Handbook and Toolbox were put into practice and tested with **150 migrant women** in 6 EU countries: Austria, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, Spain and Romania.

The pilot testing looked at:

- **Assessing the practicability** of the Forward methodological approach with the target group (migrant women) in the different partner countries.
- **Selecting the essential sections** of the handbook and toolbox that should be kept in the final versions of the materials in English and to national versions.
- **Revising the final versions** of materials according to the results of the pilot test.

The results of the pilot experience showed that the Forward methodology together with the pedagogical tools (Handbook and Toolbox) work well and allow women to re-construct their experiences giving value to them and putting a name to the abilities they have got and/or have developed through several experiences.

The whole course was a self-learning process itself, which has fostered competence development within the group and women themselves.

Final version of the Forward Handbook and Toolbox

The results of the pilot experience were used to elaborate the final versions of the **FORWARD handbook** and the **FORWARD toolbox**. Both products are designed as web-based materials and will be **downloadable** from the external site for free in English and all the partner languages.

The English version includes a common framework based on the experiences of the project in all countries, while national versions are adapted to the specific needs in each local context. The Forward Handbook and Toolbox include:

- An innovative **list of competences** key for the social inclusion of migrant women
- A competence **portfolio** based on Europass.
- An innovative **questionnaire** for migrant women to self-recognise their competences, based on common real-life situations.
- More than **50 tools** to support migrant women in the identification, transference and development of competences.
- An introductory **conceptual basis** of the Forward competence-based model: gender, migration and competence-based methodologies in the EU context.
- **Methodological guidelines** to apply the Forward tools in learning and career guidance programmes with migrant women

Future project activities: capacity-building workshops for practitioners

From June 2013 until September 2013 capacity-building workshops for practitioners will be organised with a view to transfer and promote the use of the Forward approach. To this aim, 150-180 career guidance and adult learning professionals working with migrant women from the 6 EU partner countries will be trained on the FORWARD methodology.

Those who are interested in attending the workshops, please contact the project partner in your country!