

# EARNFILE

Evaluation And Recognition of Non-formal and Informal Learning

## Programme

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## Project Duration

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08/2009 – 07/2011 (24 months)

## Project Partners

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BG	European Center for Quality Ltd.
AT	MERIG, Multidisciplinary European Research Institute Graz
BE	CCG, Centre De Coordination Et De Gestion Des Programmes Européens Pour L'enseignement Secondaire En Alternance Et L'enseignement Secondaire Technique Et Professionnel De Plein Exercice
IT	CeRSI – Research Center in Information Systems of the Luiss University
NL	Roemeling Projectleiding

## Project Description

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### Background

The project addresses two groups of problems related to recognition of non-formal and informal learning. The first group of problems is related to SMEs and their owners. On the one hand, SMEs are poorly informed about the benefits of and need for assessment of competences acquired in a non-formal and informal way. On the other hand, the lack of human, temporal and financial resources very often is a major obstacle in adopting procedures for assessment of competences and skills as practiced by large enterprises.

The second group of problems is related to employees in SMEs. Vocational education and training of staff in SMEs often happens through on the job-training and consequently the acquired skills and competences are difficult to transfer or to prove. Defining a methodology for identification and recognition of non-formal and informal learning will give individuals greater autonomy and improved job prospects and will allow society to make better use of all forms of learning and skills.

### Project Aims

The main project aim of the EARNFILE project is to improve the recognition of formal and informal learning acquired through work experience in SMEs as an important part of lifelong learning.

The partners aim at exchanging experiences, learning good practice examples from other European countries and facilitating the development of innovative practices in recognition of skills and competences gained in informal ways in the workplace. Furthermore the partnership aims at fostering the cooperation of organisations working in this field on European level.

### Results

- in depth definition of non-formal and informal learning
- definition of learning occurring in the workplace
- strategies that are being adopted to facilitate informal learning in the workplace
- methods for recording the non-formal and informal learning taking place
- defining the value of non-formal and informal learning to the employer and to the employee