



NEW WAYS FOR LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ITALIAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
RUIAP - RETE UNIVERSITARIA ITALIANA PER L'APPRENDIMENTO PERMANENTE
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The Poster aims to present a learning experience: from a MOOC to a university master, to a new set of MOOC.

The question addressed within the topic is: how can universities propose innovative and open learning opportunities for all, blending formal and non-formal learning?

The Poster presents a learning pathway proposed by RUIAP and University of Ferrara. It focuses on the acquisition of basic knowledge in identifying experiential knowledge, acquired inside non-formal and informal contexts; then, it covers the legal/administrative procedures for validation and certification of such experiential knowledge as competences.

The experience started in 2014/2015 by offering a MOOC / Competences recognition and prior learning certification. It grew during 2015/16 as a UNIVERSITY Master / Expert in guidance for the identification of competences and the validation of prior experiential learning. Finally, it gave way in 2016/17 to a new series of five MOOCs / Identification of prior experiential learning to validate and certificate competences. The latter MOOCs have been made available on EDUOPEN.ORG (an innovative Italian e-learning platform).

In 2014/15, the MOOC was made available on the e-learning MOODLE platform of the University of Ferrara. MOOC attendance was free, and two kinds of final documentation were offered, which required a fee: a lower fee for online participation (with online self-assessment), and a higher fee for getting a successful completion certificate, after in-presence examination.

In 2015/2016 both the Universities of Roma Tre and of Padua delivered a Master; in 2016/2017 just Roma Tre delivered such Master again. With respect to completion of the Master, the MOOC represents the first theoretical part, while to complete such Master, presence to five workshops is required. Again in 2016/2017 two editions of the five MOOCs series were published on EDUOPEN <https://learn.eduopen.org/>.



In 2016/17, MOOCs have been offered as a “pathway” composed by five independent MOOCs, that can be attended independently from one another and from the Master, in accordance with learners’ pursued educational objectives. Autonomy of such five MOOCs means that they can be attended and certified separately. The complete pathway deals with five problems related to the European Recommendations on Lifelong Learning, that the Italian law acknowledged, with the Law 92/2012 about labour market reform:

- * Adult education, with an overview of lifelong learning and competence based approaches (1st MOOC);
- * Principles, methods and techniques of counselling, individual or group guidance, and intermediation for the validation of competences (2nd MOOC);
- * Methods and tools to identify and formalize experiential knowledge as Skills Audit, portfolio/dossier, within EQF – Educational Qualification Framework and NQF – National qualification Framework (3rd MOOC);
- * European and national policy, legislation and practices for identification, validation and certification of experiential knowledge (4th MOOC);
- * Organization and management of recognition, validation and certification within different educational contexts: regional¹ vocational training, School and adult education, University and lifelong learning services, Enterprises – P.A. and continuing education (5th MOOC).

Each of the five MOOCs is composed by 12 video lessons: three lessons for every learning unit, 4 learning units per MOOC. These units have been developed by prestigious teachers, mostly Italian and a few EU experts. So, the whole pathway is composed by 60 video lessons, with 20 units overall, each with own syllabus developed by the responsible teacher.

Each MOOC can be certified with 4 ECTS², and the whole pathway with 20 ECTS. The educational offer for attendees who pay the certification fees is completed by an on line tutor assisted forum, and the possibility of in-presence examination.

Successful certified completion of the full pathway can be recognized as part of the 60-ECTS Master in "Expert in guidance for identification of competences and validation of prior experiential learning", which in principles shall be opened by one of the 30 Universities that joined as RUIAP members.

Below we detail the five MOOCs composing the pathway.

¹ The Italian Vocational Training system is region-based and funded locally; there are sometimes significant differences among the 21 regions.

² ECTS = European Credit Transfer System, 1 ECTS corresponds to 25 study hours by an average University student.



Adult education, with an overview of lifelong learning and competence based approaches

This MOOC is the first in the pathway about *Identification of prior experiential learning to validate and certificate competences*. It focuses on a critical presentation of the peculiar elements of adult education; it presents in depth the paradigm of competence, with an overview of lifelong learning and of lifelong guidance. It is organized into four learning units, each developed in three video lessons by nation-wide expert professors on the following subjects: Adult education (Prof. Aureliana Alberici, University of Roma Tre); Adult guidance (Prof. Isabella Loiodice, University of Foggia); Identification of competences (Prof. Pasquale Moliterni, University Foro Italico – Rome); Assessment of competences (Prof. Luciano Galliani, University of Padua).



Principles, methods and techniques of counselling, individual or group guidance, and intermediation for the validation of competences



This MOOC describes theories, methods and techniques of guidance, group dynamics, how to run individual interviews and guidance of persons to identify their competences. It is organized into four learning units, each developed in three video lessons by nation-wide expert professors on the following subjects: Theory and techniques of counseling (Prof. Giancarlo Tanucci, University of Bari); Theories and techniques of group dynamics (Prof. Paolo Frignani, University of Ferrara); Techniques to run an individual interview (Prof. Laura Formenti, University of Bicocca – Milan); Professional role and ethical position of the guide (Prof. Deli Salini, Federal University Institution for professional training – Lugano-Switzerland).

Methods and tools to identify and formalize experiential knowledge as Skills Audit, portfolio/dossier, within EQF – Educational Qualification Framework and NQF – National Qualification Framework

This MOOC, the third in the Pathway, explains foundations of processes and practices for identification and validation of learning and of competences acquired in formal, non-formal and informal educational contexts. It is organized into four learning units, each developed in three video lessons by nation-wide expert professors on the following subjects: The operative model to identify experiential knowledge (Prof. Piergiorgio Reggio, Catholic University – Milan); Skills audit (Prof. Paolo Serreri, University of Roma Tre); The Portfolio/dossier of competences (dott. Ermelinda De Carlo, University of Salento); How to use the EQF – Educational Qualification Framework – compared to NQF – National Qualification Framework (Prof. Anna Serbati, University of Padua).





European and national policy, legislation and practices for identification, validation and certification of experiential knowledge



This MOOC presents the European and national (Italian) legal framework, and the applied practices for identification, validation and certification of learning acquired in non-formal and informal contexts. It is organized into four learning units each developed in three video lessons by nation-wide expert professors on the on the following subjects: Recognition and validation of acquired Knowledge from an European point of view (Prof. Giorgio Federici, University of Florence); National policy and practices (Prof. Mauro Palumbo, University of Genoa); VAE and the French experience (Prof. Jean Marie Filloque, University of Caen – France); APEL and the English experience (dr. Barbara Light, University of Middlesex, England).

Organization and management of recognition, validation and certification within different educational contexts

This MOOC is the fifth in the Pathway about Identification of prior experiential learning to validate and certificate competences. It illustrates the legislation and the organizing procedures of the process to validate and certify competences in different educational contexts: vocational training, School, University, lifelong learning. It is organized into four learning units, each developed in three video lessons by nation-wide experts and professors on the following subjects: Role of the Ministry of Labour, and of Regions in building the National Qualification Framework (dott. Emanuela Perulli, ISFOL – Higher institute for training at work, dott. Riccardo Mazzarella, ISFOL; dott. Fabrizia Monti, State - Regions Conference); Recognition of prior learning in the adult education system: (dott. Emilio Porcaro, dott. Orazio Colosio, Executives of RIDAP - the Italian Network for Adult Education – CPIA of Bologna); Acquired competences at work and the role of employers' and trade-unions organizations in competences identification (dott. Claudio Gentili, Confindustria Education; Prof. Paolo Di Rienzo, CISL Roma tre; dott. Tiziana Baracchi, Fondartigianato); Validation of credits (ECTS) at University for prior learning (Prof. Aldo Coccozza, University of Roma Tre; dott. Sonia Startari, University of Genoa; dott. Sabrina Maniero, University of Padua).

