



# Recognition of Competences Acquired by Volunteers

## Newsletter 1

Recognition and validation of competences from informal or non-formal settings is commonly understood as one of the most important challenges for educational and training sector nowadays.

One of the most powerful informal learning contexts is represented by the volunteering sector, where young people of all education, cultural and social backgrounds, have the opportunity to experience different challenging situations, putting into practice their own skills and getting wide experience and new competences. Most of this new knowledge can represent an asset for volunteers in other areas of their life, as, for example, in professional career.

Volunteering is an opportunity, not only to be socially active and to feel part of civil society, but it is also a way to gain skills and competences.

**<https://e-c-c.at/recovol>**

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### Why can volunteering be an effective learning environment?

In the last year, the Corona crisis has led to developments in the field of volunteer work, which for years seemed unthinkable and which have turned current developments that gave cause for concern into the opposite. Voluntary work and the commitment of responsibility in civil society have gained a completely new appreciation.

Volunteering in times of the pandemic is an opportunity to proactively combat limited employment and loss of income, to be socially active and to feel being part of civil society. Equally important, it is also a way to gain new soft skills like team spirit, critical abilities, communication skills, intercultural competence, stress management, discipline, and self-confidence.

### What does our project want to achieve?

The overall objective of our strategic partnership is to provide an overview about projects, initiatives and methods for the validation of non-formal and informal learning, through volunteering, and to identify instruments, models, and schemes which validate and clearly identify the key competences that have been gained by volunteers. Providing this recognition could motivate volunteers to become either involved in additional learning activities or may also facilitate or improve their employability.

Our interactive database gives access to initiatives and learning information materials that have been identified and collected in the course of the project, especially concerning successful models and best practice concepts for the validation of key competences acquired during volunteering. The "Catalogue for Recognition of Competences Acquired Through Volunteering" will give an overview about the current situation of the specific project environment in the partners' countries, and present the initiatives, projects and materials, in English and with explanations in all languages of the partnership.

### Where can you find information?

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/recovol.eu>  
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/recovol.eu>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RecognitionWork>  
Blog: <https://www.e-c-c.at/recovol/outputs/blog/>