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Agence  
**Europe  
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France**



# Recognition of Prior Learning Country Experience FRANCE

Riga  
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# The French National Context

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## Dates and decrees.....

- 1934 : RP Experience, for people having a 5-year work experience in the engineering field => access to an engineer diploma
- 1985 :VAPP, Recognition of Personal and Professional Experience, for those who don't meet the regular access requirements => access to HE level of studies
- 1992 Recognition for people having a 5-year experience => possibility to get part of a diploma ( Cancelled and replaced by the 2002 decree...)



# Starting point for a new RPL era in France...

## 2002 : Two systems of recognition

- VAE for people having a 3-year professional, professional-like or any form of experience (whatever their age, profession, gender, situation, ...)
- VES (Validation of HE studies) for students awarded with a qualification/diploma that is not a (French) university diploma

Both systems give the possibility to validate part of a diploma or to fully obtain it





## Focus on the French VAE ...

- VAE stands for Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience (Validation of Acquired Experience) and represents :
  - the recognition of non formal, informal and formal prior learning, acquired in various situations ( professional or professional-like experience, volunteering, leisure activities, ...)
  - an individual right written in the French law that entitles people to validate prior experience in order to get a qualification or diploma.



## VAE, from 2002 on...

- The same qualification can be awarded through VAE as it is through initial/regular or continuing education
- All the levels of qualifications can be obtained through the VAE (not only HE levels)
- VAE is inscribed in the Education and the Labour codes
- VAE is recognised as an activity for professional training
- VAE is part of the policy for further training for employees
- Collective VAE is currently encouraged and developed in some companies



## Context of implementation in 2002...

- Social modernisation of the French national system of education
- Creation of the National Register for Professional Qualifications ( RNCP) ( French National Qualification Framework)



# Tools, information, counselling and monitoring systems

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## Focus on the RNCP ...

To be registered on the National Register for Professional Qualifications, the qualification description must mention

- the Learning Outcomes and skills/competences (relevant for a job), the job(s) the qualification leads to, and the rate of employability of the graduates for the past 3 years
- how access to the qualification via VAE is organised, what the LOs assessed are and how these LOs are assessed

## RNCP : A facilitator for RPL procedures



## Focus on the RNCP... What qualifications can be registered?

- All qualifications delivered on behalf of the State by different ministries (Education, Higher education, Culture, Agriculture, Social Affairs, Youth and Sports...)
- Qualifications (titles) awarded by public or private institutions, by chambers of commerce, ...
- Qualifications awarded by professional sectors

**The Commission (CNCP)  
in charge of approval for registration is composed of  
a representation of all stakeholders**



## Link RNCP and VAE in France

- The RNCP enables to get access to the description of a large number of available qualifications in the country, and to identify the level of a particular qualification
- Candidates can receive public funding for their VAE procedure, only if they apply for a registered qualification

<http://www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr/>  
<http://www.vae.gouv.fr/>



# VAE: information, monitoring and counselling

Different possibilities :

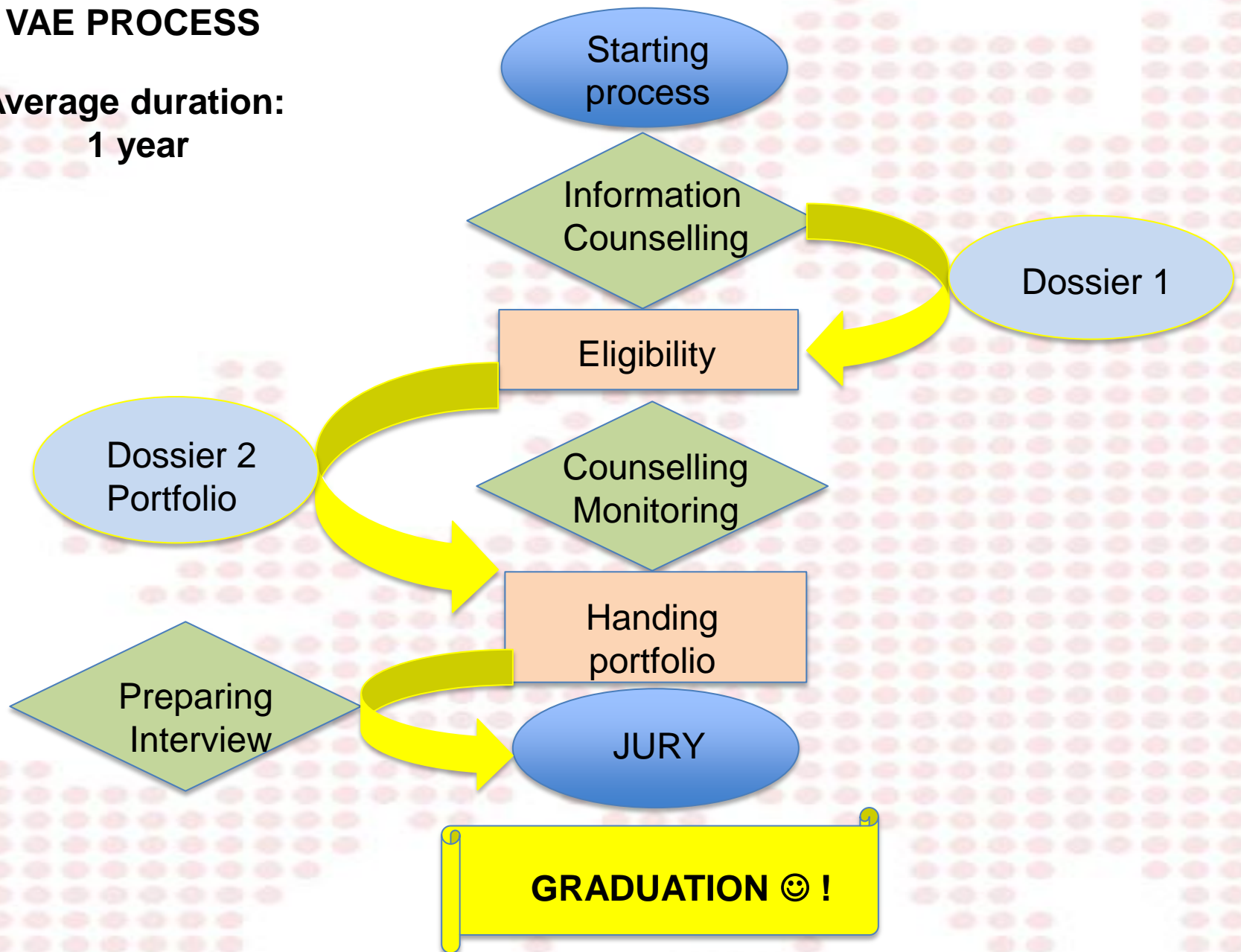
- The applicant can proceed by himself/herself (there is no obligation to be monitored)
- Career, continuing education, VAE and LLL departments at university
- VAE coordinators/referees in other education institutions / schools/ training centres
- Teachers/ professional and education training staff acting independently
- HR staff in companies, or staff in charge of further training



# Methodology

# VAE PROCESS

Average duration:  
1 year





# Completing the validation portfolio

The candidate has to

- Feed back on his/her experience/path/key moments  
find the right words for phrasing it  
Remember his/her activities and bring coherence  
Analyse the activities carried out  
Compare with the LOs of the qualification description
- Collect evidence  
« Administrative evidence »  
Any documents that may support his/her analyse



# Jury for recognition and validation

- not the same jury as for the « regular » exam
- a mixed composition of teachers (or professors) and professional experts

The jury uses the description of the registered qualification and of the assessment methods and tools .

The jury matches the candidates' skills and competences, LOs, with those described in the qualification profile

The jury gives advice if some skills, competences and LOs are missing and if extra training or education is needed

The jury can also encourage to go even further in the process





## VAE, who finances?

It depends on the candidates' profiles, but...

The State, the Regions

The social partners, the companies, individuals

For example

➤ For workers :

the process can be financed by companies who also have the obligation to grant normally paid days off to the candidates ( at least 24 hours = 3 working days)

➤ For job seekers :

the process is financed by regional collectivities or social services

Average amount : 1000 €

# Some figures



# VAE Figures for 2010

75 000 applications = for eligibility

53 000 candidates = jury

**30 000 validations (full qualifications) awarded**

The most awarded qualifications :

National Education (13 300 - 43 % of the validations)

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (7500)

Ministry of Employment (5500)

Ministry of Higher Education and Research (4200)

7 candidates out of 10 are women

2/3 of the candidates for qualifications of the lowest levels ( EQF levels 3 and 4)

From 2002 to 2010, 200 000 people got a diploma or a qualification thanks to VAE procedures



# Ministry of Higher education and research

## Statistical data 2011

- Full diploma : 4300
- Part of the diploma : 2400
  
- Age of candidates
  - 30 : 6,4 %
  - 30-39 : 36,8 %
  - 40-49 : 39,7 %
  - 50 and more : 17,1 %
  
- Employment situation
  - Job seeker : 14,2 %
  - In employment : 85,2 %
  - Unemployed : 0,6 %
  
- Among people in employment, 45 % are managers





# Ministry of Higher education and research

## Statistical data 2011

### Distribution by diploma

- University Institutes of Technology Diploma (Short cycle EQF L5) : 5,5 %
- Licence / Bachelor's degree : 7,2 %
- Licence pro / Professional bachelor's degree : 37,2 %
- Master / Master's degree : 45 %
- Diplôme d'ingénieur / Engineering degree : 1,5 %
- Doctorat / Doctorate / PhD : 1,2 %
- Autre diplôme / Other diploma : 1,9%

# Thanks for your attention !

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