

Resources for European Valuation Standards in Europe (REVASE)

Article 1

Let's Celebrate the ErasmusPlus Programme

A transnational project, partially funded by the ErasmusPlus programme of the European Union, is now under way. Led by Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers (IPAV), it aims to introduce a further transnational dimension into valuation practice through innovative use of material which can also be used for training purposes, based on European Valuation Standards (EVS) 2016.

The EU has had something of a chequered history over the last 10 years. Rescue packages at national level following turbulence in the financial markets had for the most part focused minds away from EU issues. Unrealistic expectations about the effectiveness of the EU as a deliverer of financial salvation has caused at best widespread disenchantment and at worst violence in at least one Member State. As witnessed by the recent referendum, European citizens, particularly those in the private sector at the sharp end of a sluggish and in some cases deflationary economy, are expressing doubts about whether they have derived any benefit from the EU. One wonders whether gross self interest will ever permit more genuine cross border activity.

In terms of EU activity, however, the ErasmusPlus programme is by contrast a breath of fresh air. It is not just officials who want it. Most people involved in training and staff development want it. The recent Brexit vote has created a cascade of support and heavy lobbying for continuation of the programmes which break down barriers between Member States, not erecting them and using them to promote national interests, is the way forward. Breaking down barriers is the foundation on which ErasmusPlus is based. Unlike agricultural support mechanisms, no one can use ErasmusPlus as a negotiating tool. It is simply a programme to encourage all forms of training and research at a European level, building on and supporting national strategies, and the Strategic Partnerships Programme is an essential part of supporting vocational training. No wonder the Commission views it as a flagship programme and is placing an ever increasing emphasis within the programme on valorisation, the process whereby projects can add value to existing knowledge and practice, and dissemination, the process by which relevant professionals and the public at large can learn about cross border developments and, crucially, participate in them.

Valuation is a profession which is steeped in history. For as long as property has been bought and sold valuations have been required. Increasing legislation over the years has made the subject more complex, with each country developing its own regulations. The increasing internationalisation of the property market however has placed new demands on all those in the sector who now require additional sets of skills, particularly those with an international dimension. The ErasmusPlus project, run and managed by IPAV in



conjunction with four international partners, is designed to address these matters and meet the needs of those working in valuation in the 21st Century. By making it possible to open up the European market for the valuation profession, the project will make a huge contribution to the internationalisation of the property market and the development of valuation as a discipline in Europe.

Future articles will address specific issues relating to the ErasmusPlus programme, but suffice it to say at present that, thanks to ErasmusPlus and the IRRV contract,

there will be for the first time transnational training material allied to agreed European valuation standards. British valuers working in Spain and skilled Czech staff working in London is not a new concept, but it is now more than a distinct possibility for mainstream of the valuation profession. Let's celebrate real cooperation in Europe and look forward to better opportunities for people working in property related activities.

Partners in the Project

Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers (IPAV - Ireland)

Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV - UK)

TEGoVA - European Group of Valuers (Belgium)

Polish Federation of Valuers Association (PFVA - Poland)

Latvian Association of Property Appraisers (LAPA - Latvia)

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