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Collective accompaniment and validation of professional experience :

A study made with the help of three candidates involved in the process of a validation of professional experience in the university education

The new laws about the validation of professional experience promulgated in 2002 have created a new access to this process of validation either it is social, professional or personal.

These laws make the assumption that every one develops various knowledge in and from one's experience, knowledge which can lead to a certificate. The diploma can only be validated after writing a dossier which will be presented and argued in front of a jury. Only the candidate, accompanied or not, is allowed to choose the significative and relevant elements which will be written in the dossier and have to be linked to the certificate framework.

From our training period in the continuing education department at university, we have tempted to understand how a collective accompaniment could help the candidates involved in the validation of professional experience. According to the analysis of the collective dynamic based on the sharing experiences of three candidates and according to what two of them said, this approach made advantages stand out : cognitive, affective and metacognitive. Generally, these advantages have connections with the self, the others and the learning. We also deal with the limits of this procedure of accompaniment. Finally, this reflexion on our practice brings us to give recommendations about the creation of the procedure of accompaniment alternating individual and collective approach.

Key-words :

Accompaniment, bio-cognitive, certificate, cognitive, construction, distress, echoes, experience, framework, group, interaction, know-how, knowledge, metacognitive, learning, others, professional identity, practical knowledge, recollections, self, support, validation.