

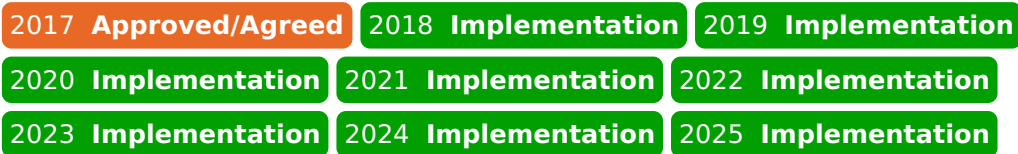
# Facilitating validation of prior experience

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 LUXEMBOURG

## Timeline



ID number 37433

## Background

Validation in Luxembourg is referred to as validation of prior experiential learning (*validation des acquis de l'expérience*, VAE) and is similar to the French model of VAE. It has been operational since 2010. One of the strengths of the system is the common approach across sectors to validating towards formal qualifications, except at levels 6 to 8 for which only partial qualifications can be obtained through validation. Any type of prior experiential learning relevant to the targeted qualification, whether it is the result of formal, non-formal or informal learning activities in education and training, the labour market or the third (non-governmental not-for-profit) sector, can be used to apply for validation.

## Objectives

The objective is to enable professional and non-professional experience to be recognised with a view to obtaining all or part of:

- (a) vocational certificates and diplomas (provided by the Ministry of Education) – vocational capacity certificates (*certificat de capacité professionnelle*, CCP) – vocational aptitude diplomas (*diplôme d'aptitude professionnelle*, DAP) – technician's diploma (*diplôme de technicien*, DT);
- (b) Secondary school leaving diploma (baccalaureate) of the general education (*Diplôme de fin d'études de l'enseignement secondaire général*) (provided by the Ministry of Education);
- (c) Master craftsmanship (*Brevet de maîtrise*) (provided by the Ministry of Education);
- (d) Higher technician certificate (*Brevet de technicien supérieur*) (provided by secondary schools);
- (e) University diploma (*Diplôme Universitaire*) (provided by Luxembourg University).

## Description

Through the recognition of professional and non-professional experience, learners can obtain either full or partial diplomas on EQF levels 2-5. The Grand-Ducal Regulation of 15

December 2017 states that candidates requesting validation of prior experience have the right to receive personalised support to submit their application. The support is limited to the maximum of 12 hours and can be provided in French, English or Luxembourgish.

### **2017 Approved/Agreed**

### **2018 Implementation**

### **2019 Implementation**

In 2019 implementation continued.

### **2020 Implementation**

In 2020, the Ministry of National Education issued a leaflet in three languages (FR, LU, DE) illustrating the six steps to be followed to submit a validation of prior experience request to obtain an IVET diploma, a secondary technical education diploma (*Diplôme de l'enseignement secondaire général*) or a master craftsmanship (*Brevet de maîtrise*).

### **2021 Implementation**

In 2021, two videos were put online. In the first, the Ministry of Education explains in detail the conditions to be met and the steps to be taken with the Ministry of Education to benefit from this; and in the second, the National Institute for the Development of Continuing Vocational Training (INFPC) informs people about the possibilities offered by VAE and about the different institutions to contact depending on the diploma, the training pathways or the course exemptions sought.

### **2022 Implementation**

In 2022, the National Institute for the Development of Continuing Vocational Training (INFPC), the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth and professional chambers produced a video featuring testimonials from individuals who participated in the validation of prior experience.

### **2023 Implementation**

In 2023, following the adoption on a law voted in July 2023 on the organisation of higher education, the condition of validation of prior experiential learning for the Higher technician certificate (*Brevet de technicien supérieur*) were adapted to align to the condition for Bachelor and Master. Validation of prior learning allows formal, non-formal and informal education and experience to be recognised with a view to accessing various higher technician certificate programmes. Candidates may possibly be partially exempted from taking certain courses, but they have to acquire at least 30 ECTS credits by attending courses from the relevant programme. It is no more possible to validate all knowledge and skills required to obtain a higher technician's certificate.

### **2024 Implementation**

Since 2024, the responsibility of validation of prior experiential learning lies with the ministry of Education, Children and Youth's department for Recognition of diplomas, now forming a "Department for recognition of diplomas and equivalence of professional qualifications".

### **2025 Implementation**

Since the creation of the "Department for recognition of diplomas and equivalence of professional qualifications" within the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth in 2024, this department has performed an in-depth analysis of the system of validation of prior experiential learning was performed to determine possible ways to make the system more accessible and effective.

---

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Research and Higher Education
- Ministry of Education, Children and Youth
- Secondary schools
- University of Luxembourg

## Target group

### Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Adult learners

Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Low-skilled/qualified persons

## Thematic categories

### Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Grand-Ducal Regulation relating to personalised support for candidates requesting the validation of prior experience](#)

---

[Grand-Ducal Regulation of January 11, 2010 organising the validation of acquired experience](#)

---

[Leaflet on validation of acquired experience \(available in three languages\)](#)

---

[Videos on validation of acquired experience - Ministry of Education](#)

---

[VAE in Luxembourg](#)

---

[VAE in Luxembourg - Testimonies](#)

---

[Law of 21 July 2023 on the organisation of higher education](#)

## Related policy developments

---

**2016 Approved/Agreed**

### Law on the recognition of professional qualifications

The 2016 Law on the recognition of professional qualifications (transposition of Directive 2013/55/UE modifying the Directive 2005/36/EC) established the CLQ (National qualifications framework) as the formal reference point for recognition of professional

qualifications acquired outside Luxembourg

 LUXEMBOURG

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

---

“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Facilitating validation of prior experience: Luxembourg. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/37433>