

Qualification profile for validation experts

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 AUSTRIA

Timeline



ID number 29867

Background

At the end of 2017, the Austrian National Strategy for the validation of non-formal and informal learning was published. It had been developed under the coordination of the Ministry of Education in cooperation with many stakeholders. This strategy is based on the Council's Recommendation of the same name (2012/C 398/01), in which the EU Member States are invited to develop nationally coordinated approaches and processes with which competences can be made more visible and thus validated.

In Austria, there are several qualifications in which validation plays a role in the assessment procedure. A few of these qualifications can also be obtained entirely through validation. The national strategy offers a strategic framework for the development, coordination and network-building of all validation offers. It is the aim of the strategy and its related activities to promote all validation approaches and present them as examples/models for other qualifications. Overall, the quality of validation approaches, as well as the trust in this type of assessment, should be enhanced.

A key quality aspect within validation is the qualification profile of validation experts: what knowledge, skills, transversal competences and attitudes must they be able to demonstrate to validate learning.

Objectives

The main objectives are:

- (a) the definition of a qualification profile for validation experts;
- (b) the contribution to quality assurance within validation processes.

Description

Since the validation strategy should encourage qualification providers to include validation elements in assessment procedures, the Ministry of Education took the initiative to draw up a qualification profile for validation experts. Thus, at the beginning of 2019 it commissioned two VET research institutes (ibw and öibf) with this task, assigning the responsibility for this

project to wba (*Weiterbildungsakademie*), the validation centre for adult learning experts.

Within this project, a qualification profile shall be developed for validation experts to consider the various roles these experts can have in validation processes (counsellors, assessors) and the aims of validation (formative and summative approaches). The first draft of this profile shall be evaluated in terms of its practicability/usability/comprehension with stakeholders, provider institutions and validation experts. Moreover, it shall be discussed how this qualification could be implemented in the Austrian qualification system (qualification provider, provision of know-how, etc.) and how it can be assessed (via non-formal learning, through validation, etc.).

What are the main activities in this project?

- (a) analysis of validation approaches in Austria to categorise/map the approaches;
- (b) interviews with validation experts about their work and required know-how;
- (c) drafting of a qualification profile (QP) based on the information gathered;
- (d) discussing the QP draft with stakeholders, provider institutions and validation experts in terms of its practicability, usability, comprehension;
- (e) fine-tuning/finalising of the QP.

Who should benefit from this project?

- (a) stakeholders;
- (b) validation experts;
- (c) training providers.

When should this initiative be implemented?

- (a) the QP should be finalised by December 2021;
- (b) for the implementation into the qualification system, there is no specific timeline.

This initiative (and thus this project) is connected to the national validation strategy issued at the end of 2017. At the beginning of the project, it has not been decided how the results (i.e. the qualification profile) will be implemented in the Austrian qualification system and if it will be turned into a government-regulated qualification (i.e. laid down in a law or directive).

2019 Design

In 2019, the research work for the development and the preparation for a first draft of the qualification profile was done.

2020 Design

In 2020, 10 interviews were conducted with experts representing qualifications in which various forms of validation play a role. For the analysis of these interviews, the project partners created an analysis grid. Based on the results of this analysis, the first draft of a qualification profile (QP) for validation experts was developed and discussed within the project partnership and with the promoters.

2021 Design

In 2021, the feedback from the field experts was used to improve the draft version of the qualification profile and discuss it in workshops with providers of qualifications in which validation elements are used. The feedback was incorporated into the qualification profile.

2022 Design

At the beginning of 2022 the qualification profile was finalised. It is now up to the Ministry of Education to take further steps, i.e. to push ahead with implementation in the Austrian qualification landscape.

2023 Design

A follow-up project was commissioned in 2023.

In July 2023 the follow-up project started with a revision of the qualification profile to make it learning-outcome oriented and suitable as a basis for a certification procedure for validation practitioners.

2024 Design

In 2024 a first draft for a certification procedure was developed in an intensive dialogue between the project partners and on basis of an analysis of existing relevant training and certification instruments in the field.

2025 Pilot

In 2025 the qualification profile has been slightly refined (particularly with regard to data protection and the EU AI Act). Furthermore, a partial pilot of the certification procedure is taking place. The results will be evaluated and used to revise and finalise the qualification profile and certification process. In addition, a framework curriculum for training of validation practitioners is being developed.

Bodies responsible

- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) (until 2025)
- Austrian Academy of Continuing Education (wba)
- Federal Ministry of Education (BMB)

Target group

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

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

[Austrian validation strategy](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

National strategy on validation of non-formal and informal learning

Following a national consultation process, the national strategy for validating non-formal and informal learning was finalised and adopted in November 2017.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Easing the recognition process of qualifications acquired in third countries

The federal Act on the simplification of procedures to recognise and assess foreign educational and professional qualifications came into force in July 2016.

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IVET CVET

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