

Validation arrangements

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 CYPRUS

Timeline

2018 Approved/Agreed

2019 Pilot

2020 Pilot

2021 Pilot

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 28081

Background

Validating non-formal and informal learning is possible for certain competence-based vocational qualifications. Non-formal and informal learning cannot yet be validated for the award of qualifications by VET schools. The government has agreed that VET qualifications, usually granted by labour market institutions or employment services, will have the same learning outcomes as those obtained through the formal system. Quality assurance measures linked to validation are in place and are being further developed.

Description

The education ministry is coordinating the implementation of the project 'Establishing a mechanism for the validation of non-formal and informal learning'. The project is jointly funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Republic of Cyprus. This project has supported a mapping study of the current situation in Cyprus on the validation of non-formal and informal learning. Based on this mapping study, an overall National action plan for the creation of mechanisms for the validation of non-formal and informal learning in Cyprus was developed. The National action plan foresees setting up a validation mechanism and carrying out a pilot.

The validation of non-formal and informal learning contributes towards ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training. Disadvantaged groups, such as early school leavers, the unemployed/those at risk of unemployment, young people, volunteers, adults, NEETs, refugees and people with disabilities may benefit by the pilot phase of the mechanism.

2018 Approved/Agreed

In early 2018, a National action plan for the creation of mechanisms for the validation of non-formal and informal learning in Cyprus was developed. After its development, the plan was put into public consultation and was finalised in May 2018. In October 2018, the Council of Ministers approved the plan.

2019 Pilot

Preparation for the creation of the mechanisms for adult education, youth and volunteering began.

2020 Pilot

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there was a delay in the implementation of the project.

2021 Pilot

A contractor started designing the necessary tools for the pilot phase of the mechanisms for the validation of non-formal and informal learning in the three sectors (adult education, youth and volunteerism).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the project was postponed/delayed again for another year.

2022 Implementation

The contractor concluded the following deliverables:

- (a) adult education - a steering document was produced which includes guidelines on the validation of prior learning in evening schools (general secondary and technical) to enhance the potential of interested citizens to re-enter education;
- (b) youth - a vocational qualification for Youth Workers was produced in cooperation with the Youth board of Cyprus and other relevant stakeholders. The qualification was delivered to the Youth board of Cyprus, for implementation in cooperation with the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (HRDA);
- (c) volunteerism - a document with guiding principles was prepared which can help universities support the validation of prior learning of citizens, previously engaged in volunteer activities.

In November 2022, the co-funded project 'Establishing a mechanism for the validation of non-formal and informal learning' was concluded.

The National Qualifications Authority (NQA)-which was established by the Council of Ministers on 18 May 2017 with Decision No 82.592- was assigned the task to set up an overall validation mechanism. The NQA started being developed under the coordination of the Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training (STVET).

2023 Implementation

The HRDA and the Youth Board of Cyprus and other relevant stakeholders are in deliberation for finalising the vocational qualification for Youth Workers.

2024 Implementation

By 2024, Cyprus had not established an official framework for the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning. However, various government agencies were undertaking individual actions to address the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

2025 Implementation

Although a comprehensive, officially institutionalised national validation system was not yet in place, government actors and public bodies advanced sectoral measures to recognise competences gained outside formal education. The HRDA's System of Vocational Qualification Standards (SVQ), which assesses and certifies prior work experience, skills and competences against occupational standards, continued to

expand its scope. The Youth Board of Cyprus (*Οργανισμός Νεολαίας Κύπρου*, ONEK) supported the development of occupational standards and professional profiles for youth work—a key area of non-formal and informal learning—through dedicated working groups and committees. These structures helped align youth-sector competences with emerging skills frameworks, even though formal validation arrangements were still not in place.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (MESY)
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY) (until 2022)
- Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) (until 2019)

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Adult learners

Other

Volunteers

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

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Decision no. 85.959, dated 16 October 2018 of the Council of Ministers approving the National action plan for the creation of mechanisms for the validation of non-formal and informal learning in Cyprus](#)

Related policy developments

2017 Approved/Agreed

National Qualifications Authority

On 18 May 2017, the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the National Qualifications Authority, with the mandate to:

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” Cite as

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