

# Validation arrangements

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****REGULATION/LEGISLATION** BELGIUM-DE

## Timeline

**ID number 28001**

## Background

Against the backdrop of demographic change, longer working lives and with regards to the shortage of skilled workers, the EU is concerned to make non-formally and informally acquired competences visible and usable. In 2014, a project addressing the validation challenge started, responding to the Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

## Objectives

The aim of this project is to support citizens in shaping their career paths by offering opportunities for validating and recognising their vocational competences.

## Description

In 2015, a strategy for the introduction of a validation system was developed and a public launch event on the recognition of competences took place in October 2016. Sixty key actors from the German-speaking Community were invited to participate in a debate. Subsequently, a steering group was established with the participation of stakeholders from formal and non-formal education, as well as employment and social partners. Between February and November 2017, the steering group developed a validation concept for the German-speaking Community. On this basis, the ESF project 'Shaping future paths' was elaborated and has been running since July 2018.

The aim of this project is to support citizens in shaping their career paths by offering them the following opportunities:

- (a) skills assessments in form of workshops and personal coaching (using the ProfilPASS tool; formative validation targets people aged 18 and over);
- (b) information and counselling on VET and on support measures;
- (c) validation/recognition of vocational competences (summative validation).

In the German-speaking Community, validation procedures are available for people who

have non-formal and/or informal competences in an occupation for which there is an apprenticeship in the German-speaking Community. They are given the opportunity to take part in the practical final examination of apprenticeship to have their practical vocational skills certified at a Centre for Education and Training of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (ZAWM). The IAWM is the supervisory authority of the two ZAWMs. IAWM and ZAWM were involved in the development of the procedure.

The validation procedure is for individuals, regardless of their current employment status at home or abroad, who are unable to prove their status through a vocational qualification / recognised professional qualification in the German-speaking Community.

Individuals can participate in this validation procedure if they:

- (a) are at least 25 years old;
- (b) have relevant professional experience but do not have a professional qualification recognised in the recognised professional qualification in the German-speaking Community;
- (c) have a good command of the German language;
- (d) have mastered the German language to such an extent that they are able to understand professional tasks and give understandable explanations;
- (e) wish to work or reside in Belgium.

Evidence of relevant professional experience is provided by means of a curriculum vitae. Sufficient command of the German language is important for the smooth running of the validation procedure. The minimum language requirement is, therefore, level German A2 of the Common European framework of reference for languages.

#### **2015 Design**

#### **2016 Legislative process**

#### **2017 Approved/Agreed**

#### **2018 Implementation**

#### **2019 Implementation**

In 2019, the implementation phase is ongoing and the validation procedures run as regular practice.

#### **2020 Implementation**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no validation procedures took place in 2020.

A circular was elaborated in the German-speaking Community, containing guidelines for the public services to ensure that the validation concept for the dual vocational training is correctly understood and applied.

#### **2021 Implementation**

In 2021, it is no longer an ESF project but sustained by the Government and completely implemented. Validation arrangements are now known under a new project name: KomAn (*Kompetenzen anerkennen* - acknowledging competences). The KomAn project was introduced by the Ministry in cooperation with the Centre for Education and Training of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (ZAWM). The Ministry is responsible for project management, as well as for information, advice and support of the candidates. The ZAWM carries out the test procedure and IAWM is supervising the project. The KomAn project addresses people from 25 years of age who do not have a professional qualification but bring a lot of experience and competences, in a profession for which there is a dual training in the German-speaking Community.

#### **2022 Completed**

In 2022, the KomAn project became a regular practice.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of German-Speaking Community
- Institute for vocational and educational training in small and medium-sized companies (IAWM)

## Target group

### Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)  
Learners with migrant background, including refugees  
Adult learners

## 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

Lifelong guidance

## Subsystem

CVET

## Further reading

[The ESF project Designing future paths'](#)

[Skills Validation in Ostbelgien](#)

[Circular \(Legal Basis from 'KomAn'\)](#)

[Competence balancing and career orientation with the instrument 'ProfilPASS' \(= 'Formative Validation'\)](#)

### “ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28001>

