

Updating the 2015 European Guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning

The European Commission and Cedefop are currently updating the European guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning. To this end, a survey to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders has been designed. This page provides background information on the process of the update. The survey can be accessed in the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/e3c778de-2719-143e-830c-afa67565f501>

The ongoing digital and green transitions – exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, requires Member States to increasingly tap into the full potential of their citizens. Validation of non-formal and informal learning can be used as an effective mechanism to deal with this need. The European Commission and Cedefop, supported by the European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group (EQF AG), are currently updating the European guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning to make them relevant for current and future challenges in this crucial area.

Validation is about making visible and attributing value to all learning, formal, non-formal and informal. According to the [2012 Council Recommendation](#) validation consists of four phases - identification, documentation, assessment and/or certification of acquired learning. In some cases, validation will be limited to identification and documentation; in other cases, when an individual aims for a formal qualification, all four phases will be involved.

The European guidelines were first developed in [2009](#) and, following the adoption of the Council Recommendation, updated in [2015](#). The [evaluation of the 2012 Recommendation](#), has signalled the importance of the guidelines in promoting a shared understanding of validation in Europe and to support peer learning. The purpose of the guidelines is to support policy makers and practitioners in developing and implementing solutions to serve individuals in their validation process. The ambition of the guidelines is to clarify the conditions for implementation, highlighting the critical choices to be made by stakeholders at different stages of the process. The 2021 update of the guidelines will as far as possible build on experiences in implementing validation arrangements at national, regional and local level.

The update of the guidelines is fully supported by the EQF AG. A specific working group has been created for the development of the survey and support in the development of the new guidelines. For the 2021 Guidelines to become relevant to the widest possible range of stakeholders and users, we would very much appreciate it, if you could share your experiences and opinions with us by distributing the survey to your stakeholders and by responding to it yourself.