

Recognition and validation of foreign VET qualifications in Europe

Comparative insights for skills portability



GENERAL INFORMATION

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Data on validation comes mainly from <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/validation-non-formal-informal-learning>

METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:

The dataset was compiled through a systematic mapping of national structures, legislation and institutional arrangements governing the recognition and validation of foreign VET qualifications across the EU-27, Norway and Iceland (30 systems). For Belgium, separate information was collected and analysed for the Flemish and French Communities. The dataset covers recognition for further learning, employment in regulated professions and employment in non-regulated professions, as well as related validation arrangements.

Data on recognition was collected and synthesised from a [ReferNet survey](#) conducted in 2024 and targeted email consultations carried out in 2026 with 24 ENIC-NARIC centres and competent recognition authorities.

The main data on validation were derived from the report of the [European Inventory on Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning](#), 2023 Edition.

The information was reviewed and organised by Cedefop into a comparative dataset covering governance arrangements, legal frameworks, responsible authorities, recognition methodologies and validation practices across the systems analysed.

Date of data collection: Data on validation: 2023, Data on recognition: 2024-2026

Geographic location of data collection: EU-27, Norway and Iceland

Note for reading the dataset:

The following table maps provisions for the recognition and validation of foreign VET qualifications and skills across the EU-27, plus Norway and Iceland, at the time of writing (2026-06-01). It presents information by purpose, using a consistent structure that identifies, for each case, the information centre, the competent authority and the applicable legal basis.

Information centres refer to institutions that provide guidance and information on recognition procedures and, in some cases, may also assess qualifications and issue advisory (non-binding) statements. For the purposes of this dataset, the term ‘competent authority’ refers to the body responsible for assessing qualifications and issuing recognition decisions or granting access to further learning or employment. In the context of further learning, this may include competent recognition authorities operating under the [Lisbon Recognition Convention](#) (LRC) framework, as well as education and training institutions responsible for admission decisions. For regulated professions, it refers to the competent authorities designated under [Directive 2005/36/EC](#) on the recognition of professional qualifications. As no equivalent overarching framework exists for non-regulated professions, the term is used more broadly to refer to the bodies responsible for assessing qualifications, issuing recognition-related outcomes, or determining access to employment. The table also indicates whether the respective bodies, across purposes, are involved in validation arrangements.

The legal basis refers to the main regulatory frameworks governing the recognition of VET qualifications in each country, including references to the LRC, where applicable.

The last column presents arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning relevant to the assessment of skills in labour-market contexts. Labour-market validation arrangements 'refer to initiatives in which private sector institutions play a central role (alone or in collaboration with public sector institutions). These initiatives might be promoted, for example, by employers or employers' associations' (Cedefop and European Commission, 2024, p. 68).

Table 1. **National structures and legislation for the recognition and validation of foreign VET qualifications and skills**

Country	Purpose	Recognition and validation processes			
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
Austria	Information centre	Contact points for people with qualifications acquired abroad (AST) and dedicated portals (e.g. berufsanerkennung.at) provide information and guidance on assessment and recognition procedures for foreign VET qualifications across federal states; ENIC-NARIC Austria (OeAD) provides recognition of foreign higher education (HE) qualifications.	AST advisory centres and the national assistance centre at the Federal Ministry for Labour and Economy provide information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities.	AST contact points provide information and guidance on qualification assessment procedures (<i>Bewertung</i>); ENIC-NARIC Austria assesses foreign HE qualifications for professional purposes.	The system of validation in Austria is characterised by several different initiatives, working relatively independent from each other and with different objectives and aims. There are several initiatives that allow the acquisition of certificates that are linked to labour market. Some are included in the NQF.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions decide on admission; formal recognition procedures for school-leaving certificates and qualifications are carried out by the competent education authorities and higher education institutions (HEIs). Validation is possible in some programmes through external exams based on legally binding procedures are also in place to access formal VET programmes.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employers decide on recruitment; competent authorities may issue formal assessment opinions (<i>Bewertung</i>) supporting labour-market integration and job matching.	
	Applicable legal basis	Recognition and Assessment Act (AuBG); School Organisation Act (SCHOG); Universities Act (UG); LRC (BGBl. III Nr. 71/1999).	Recognition and Assessment Act (AuBG) & profession-specific legislation implementing Directive 2005/36/EC.	Recognition and Assessment Act (AuBG) establishing formal assessment (<i>Bewertung</i>) procedures for foreign educational and professional qualifications in non-regulated professions.	
Belgium (Flemish Community)	Information centre	NARIC-Vlaanderen provides information and directs applicants to education and training institutions. It may assess the level of formal foreign VET qualifications and its comparability with the corresponding qualification level in Flanders according to the NQF.	FPS Economy through BE-Assist provides information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities as national assistance centre; NARIC-Vlaanderen provides complementary information on recognition procedures and may assess qualifications through academic equivalence (i.e. academic recognition pathways).	NARIC-Vlaanderen provides information and assessment of formal qualifications, issuing legally binding decisions on the academic equivalence of foreign qualifications; provides information on VPL pathways.	Since 2019 the 'Certificate of Work Experience' ('Ervaringsbewijs') gradually has been converted into 'recognition of acquired competences' (<i>Erkennen van Verworven Competenties</i> -

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission, while they may apply Recognition of prior learning.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding professional recognition decisions; NARIC-Vlaanderen can also issue legally binding recognition for academic equivalence, which provides broader recognition of diplomas but does not in itself grant access to regulated professions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	EVC) certificates. Other initiatives also provide some certification valid in the labour market, ultimately connected to EVC processes.
	Applicable legal basis	Codex Hoger Onderwijs , Codex Secundair Onderwijs , BVR 14 June 2013 (higher education) & BVR 14 June 2013 (primary/secondary education) based on LRC.	Legal basis: Codex Hoger Onderwijs , Codex Secundair Onderwijs , BVR 14 June 2013 (higher education) & BVR 14 June 2013 (primary/secondary education) based on LRC (for academic equivalence route); Decree of 24 February 2017 (partially transposing Directive 2005/36/EC), and sector-specific legislation.	Codex Hoger Onderwijs , Codex Secundair Onderwijs , BVR 14 June 2013 (higher education) & BVR 14 June 2013 (primary/secondary education) based on LRC.	
Belgium (French community)	Information centre	ENIC-NARIC FWB provides information on recognition procedures within formal education, including upper secondary VET qualifications	FPS Economy through BE-Assist provides information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities as national assistance centre	Not specified	Validation of competences (<i>validation des compétences</i> - VDC) results in a (non-formal) credential (<i>titre de compétence</i>). The credential is granted by a network of accredited validation centres (Centres de validation agréés) managed by the validation of competencies consortium (Consortium de validation des compétences – CVDC). Validation centres are training providers approved by the government.
	Competent authority	Ministry of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (DGEO) issues legally binding equivalence decisions for foreign diplomas within formal education (incl. upper secondary VET); education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission; validation (Valorisation des acquis de l'expérience – VAE) might also be applicable for admission in VET	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions	Employer decides on recruitment; equivalence decisions issued by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation may be used to support access to employment where relevant	
	Applicable legal basis	Community legislation on equivalence of foreign diplomas (Arrêté Royal 1971 ; Décret 2013 ; Arrêté 2016); LRC.	Directive 2005/36/EC; Décret du 19 octobre 2017 (for teachers).	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of standalone foreign VET qualifications in non-regulated professions.	
Bulgaria	Information centre	National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID /ENIC-NARIC Bulgaria) provides information and recognition procedures for foreign secondary VET qualifications.	ENIC-NARIC Bulgaria acts as the national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	ENIC-NARIC Bulgaria provides information on recognition procedures and comparability of qualifications; National Agency for VET (NAVET) provides information on VET qualifications and validation systems.	The 2022 amendment to the Employment Promotion Act allows allocation of public funding for validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) for economically inactive persons registered with PES, although implementation appears limited at this stage.
	Competent authority	ENIC-NARIC Bulgaria (since 2025) recognises completed foreign secondary education qualifications, including VET, and issues legally binding recognition decisions; Regional Departments of Education assess completed stages/grades within secondary education, including VET; education and training institutions decide on admission and are in charge of validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment; ENIC-NARIC Bulgaria acts as competent authority for recognition of completed secondary education and HE qualifications also for labour-market purposes in non-regulated professions. No national authority exists for recognition of standalone foreign vocational qualifications acquired separately from secondary or higher education.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Applicable legal basis	Ordinance 11 of 01.09.2016 on assessment of students' learning results.	Recognition of Professional Qualifications Act (2008, as amended in 2024; transposing Directive 2005/36/EC).	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of standalone foreign VET qualifications in non-regulated professions; recognition linked to secondary education is regulated under Ordinance No. 11 of 01.09.2016.	
Croatia	Information centre	Agency for VET and Adult Education (AVETAE) provides information on recognition procedures for foreign VET qualifications; Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE /ENIC-NARIC Croatia) provides information for access to HE.	ENIC-NARIC Croatia acts as national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	AVETAE provides information on validation procedures for foreign VET and post-secondary non-tertiary qualifications used for access to non-regulated professions and, upon request, issues non-binding validation opinions. Qualifications linked to regulated professions may also be assessed for use in non-regulated contexts, without granting access to regulated professions.	The Regulation on the application and procedure for the validation of prior learning [Pravilnik o nacinu prijave i provodenju vrednovanja prethodnog učenja], (Official Gazette, No 79/2024) adopted in 2024 gives the possibility to VET and adult education institutions to carry out validation. However, implementation seems still limited. Separate sectoral validation arrangements exist for specific regulated and professional occupations (e.g. brokers, tax advisors, court interpreters, tourist guides), allowing certification based on prior learning.
	Competent authority	The Central Applications Office within the ENIC-NARIC Croatia carries out recognition procedures for access to higher education; AZOO carries out recognition for access to upper-secondary education; AVETAE issues formal recognition decisions for continuing VET and adult education pathways; education and training institutions retain final admission decisions. Since 2024 they are also responsible for implementing validation of non-formal and informal learning.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	Act on Recognition and Validation of Foreign Educational Qualifications (Official Gazette 69/2022), aligned with LRC principles.	Act on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications (No. 82/15 , 70/19 , 47/20 , 123/23 , 126/25), transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	Act on Recognition and Validation of Foreign Educational Qualifications (Official Gazette 69/2022).	
Cyprus	Information centre	The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth provides general information on education systems and recognition procedures. The Council for the Recognition of HE Qualifications (KYSATS) is responsible for the recognition of HE qualifications. The Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA) provides information on vocational qualifications and standards.	The Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance acts as the national assistance centre for regulated professions and provides information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities.	HRDA provides information on vocational qualifications and standards.	The System of Vocational Qualification Standards (VQS, ΣΕΠ in Greek), managed by HRDA allows assessment and certification of prior work experience. Assessments are undertaken in approved centres by two assessors, primarily via

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission. Institutions may also recognise prior learning and grant exemptions. KYSATS issues recognition decisions for HE qualifications. HRDA may grant exemptions from specific vocational qualification requirements in limited cases.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment	observation in real or simulated work. 167 standards across nine sectors have been developed.
	Applicable legal basis	CyQF; Human Resource Development Laws (1999-2007); no comprehensive legal framework for foreign VET qualifications for this purpose.	Law 31(I)/2008 transposing Directive 2005/36/EC	Cyprus does not operate a dedicated legal recognition or comparability framework for foreign VET qualifications in non-regulated professions; Human Resource Development Laws (1999-2007) establish the vocational qualifications and standards framework.	
Czechia	Information centre	ENIC-NARIC Czechia provides information and guidance on recognition procedures for foreign secondary VET qualifications; since VET qualifications generally do not provide direct access to HE unless linked to completion of upper secondary education with maturita, recognition of VET qualifications for this purpose remains limited.	ENIC-NARIC Czechia provides general information on the education system, mobility and recognition procedures; the Centre for Recognition of Professional Qualifications under the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports provides guidance and coordination as national assistance centre, interpreting legislation and coordinating recognition across supervisory authorities for individual professions.	ENIC-NARIC Czechia provides information on recognition procedures and validity of foreign educational documents, including VET; it may issue statements concerning the level and type of foreign qualifications within the foreign education system, but does not assess professional expertise.	Validation is supported through the National Register of Qualifications (NSK) and the Act on Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results (No. 179/2006 Coll.); it focuses on recognising learning outcomes acquired outside formal education and operates separately from recognition of foreign qualifications.
	Competent authority	Regional authorities issue formal recognition decisions (nostrification) for secondary level qualifications, including VET; HEIs decide on recognition of HE qualifications and admission to studies; the Ministry of Education acts as appeal body in general academic recognition cases.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment; regional authorities may issue formal nostrification decisions for foreign secondary VET qualifications.	
	Applicable legal basis	Education Act (No. 561/2004 Coll.); Act on Higher Education Institutions (No. 111/1998); recognition practices aligned with LRC principles.	Act on Recognition of Professional Qualifications (No. 18/2004 Coll.), transposing Directive 2005/36/EC; relevant profession specific legislation.	Education Act (No. 561/2004 Coll.) established formal recognition (nostrification) procedures for foreign secondary qualifications, including VET, which may support labour market access.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
Denmark	Information centre	Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (ENIC-NARIC Denmark) provides information and issues comparability statements for foreign VET qualifications, generally non-binding, referencing qualification level (NQF/EQF) and comparability within the Danish education system	ENIC-NARIC Denmark acts as the national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities	ENIC-NARIC Denmark provides information and issues comparability statements for foreign qualifications, including for employment in non-regulated professions. Such statements are advisory, although the level indicated may be binding in certain public-sector contexts.	Validation rests with education institutions (e.g., AMU and VET providers). Local authorities providing validation are well connected to labour market actors and collaboration between education and social partners is well established.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess applications, decide on admission and are in charge of validation	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions	Employer decides on recruitment; public authorities require a formal assessment	
	Applicable legal basis	The Danish Assessment of Foreign Qualifications Act (LBK 371/2007) based on LRC (EUV) and the Act no. 556 of 6 June 2007 that regulates access to adult and continuing training.	Act on the Recognition of Certain Educational and Professional Qualifications (Act No. 1871 of 29 December 2015); Amending Act to the Recognition Act (Act No. 884 of 16 June 2020) transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	The Act on Assessment of Foreign Qualifications establishes a formal right for individuals, employers and institutions to request official assessments of foreign qualifications for labour market and education purposes.	
Estonia	Information centre	Estonian ENIC-NARIC (HARNO) provides information and issues comparability statements (non-binding) for foreign VET qualifications, referencing qualification level and its position within the Estonian education system.	Estonian ENIC-NARIC acts as the national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	Estonian ENIC-NARIC provides information and issues comparability statements, including for employment purposes in non-regulated professions.	Validation of Prior Learning and Work Experience (VÕTA) is established in HE and VET and partly in adult education. It may support access, exemptions or qualification awards.
	Competent authority	Estonian ENIC/NARIC assesses qualifications for access to HE; education and training institutions decide on admission and are in charge of validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession, issuing legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment; Estonia also operates occupational qualification certification arrangements linked to Estonian Qualifications Framework.	
	Applicable legal basis	Government Regulation No. 89 of 6 April 2006 based on LRC.	Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications Act (19.06.2008) transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition in non-regulated professions. However, Estonian legislation establishes statutory pathways for qualification comparison and occupational qualification certification linked to the Estonian Qualifications Framework.	
Finland	Information centre	Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI /ENIC-NARIC Finland) provides information and supports education institutions but does not issue formal statements for this purpose.	ENIC-NARIC Finland acts as the national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	ENIC-NARIC Finland provides information to employers and, upon request, issues advisory statements on vocational qualifications completed abroad (descriptive, indicating the EQF level if available).	Finland embeds validation in its competence-based VET system. Validation takes place in workplaces and are assessed by a teacher together with a

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess and decide on admission and validation of prior learning.	Competent authorities designated per profession, issuing legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	working-life representative and the learner. There are Mandatory working life passport certificates, such as Alcohol and Hygiene Passports.
	Applicable legal basis	Acts on eligibility for further studies (Universities Act 558/2009 ; Universities of Applied Sciences Act 932/2014) based on LRC; Act on eligibility for public posts provided by higher education studies completed abroad (1385/2015); Regulation regarding the principles of identification and recognition of prior learning	Act on the recognition of professional qualifications 1384/2015 transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of foreign qualifications in non-regulated professions.	
France	Information centre	ENIC-NARIC France provides information and issues comparability statements for foreign VET qualifications, referencing the level (NQF/EQF) and position of the qualification within the French education system.	ENIC-NARIC France provides information and guidance concerning foreign qualifications and directs applicants to the relevant competent authorities. The national assistance centre operates through the Qualifications Gateway (Guichet Qualifications), which provides information on regulated professions and recognition procedures.	ENIC-NARIC France provides information and issues non-binding comparability statements for foreign qualifications, including VET qualifications intended for employment in non-regulated professions.	Validation of non-formal and informal learning (<i>Validation des acquis de l'expérience</i> - VAE) is in place since 2002. It allows to acquire all qualifications in the national registry (<i>Répertoire national des certifications professionnelles – RNCP</i>). A variety of tools are being developed to identify individuals' skills at by public employment services (PES), sectoral associations and individual companies.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission. They are also legally bound to carry out validation if requested to award qualifications, exceptions or for admission.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions and authorisations to practice.	Employer decides on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	Decree No. 2000-941 of 25 September 2000 publishing the LRC.	Ordinance No. 2016-1809 and related legislation transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of foreign qualifications in non-regulated professions.	
Germany	Information centre	The Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB /ENIC-NARIC Germany) provides information and issues descriptive statements on foreign non-academic vocational qualifications (DAB) (for third-country nationals); BIBB , through Anerkennung in Deutschland provides general information on the recognition of foreign VET qualifications and available pathways.	BIBB acts as the national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	BIBB provides information on recognition procedures and competent authorities for foreign professional and VET qualifications; BQ Portal provides information on foreign professional qualifications to support recognition and labour-market integration; ZAB may issue descriptive statements for specific residence-status purposes.	The Vocational Training Validation and Digitisation Act (Berufsbildungsvalidierungs- und -digitalisierungsgesetz – BVaDiG) came into force on 1 August 2024. With the newly introduced assessment procedure, people without a formal vocational qualification but with professional experience have been entitled, for the first

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission. Recognised foreign VET qualifications may support access to further vocational training, but there is no automatic right of access to higher education. External examinations and validation arrangements may also support access to formal qualifications.	Competent authorities designated per profession, issuing legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment; competent chambers and authorities, including Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHK), IHK FOSA, Chambers of Crafts (HWK) and other profession-specific bodies, implement recognition procedures and may issue legally binding equivalence decisions against German reference occupations.	time, to have their professional skills assessed and certified against the standard of a dual training occupation since 1 January 2025 (Eurydice, 2026).
	Applicable legal basis	LRC and higher education legislation of the Länder for academic recognition; Federal Recognition Act (2011) and the Professional Qualifications Assessment Act (BQFG) for foreign vocational qualifications.	Federal Recognition Act ; Professional Qualifications Assessment Act (BQFG); profession-specific federal and Länder legislation implementing Directive 2005/36/EC.	Professional Qualifications Assessment Act (BQFG) establishes a legal framework and a legal right to equivalence assessment of foreign professional qualifications against German reference occupations, including in non-regulated VET occupations.	
Greece	Information centre	EOPPEP provides information and carries out assessment of foreign VET qualifications, referencing corresponding qualifications within the Greek education and qualifications system. DOATAP /ENIC-NARIC Greece is responsible for HE qualifications.	The Independent Department for the Support of the Council for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (SAEP), within the General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and Youth of the Ministry of Education, acts as the national assistance centre under Directive 2005/36/EC and provides information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	EOPPEP issues formal equivalency decisions for foreign VET qualifications, which may support access to employment, further studies and acquisition of professional rights linked to the recognised qualification.	Not possible to identify validation clearly connected to the labour market, although in 2025 an EU Technical Support Instrument developed a strategy to be implemented. At the moment, there are some initiatives connected to ISO 17024 certification of persons' skills and a pilot in the region of Eleusis.
	Competent authority	EOPPEP issues legally binding equivalence decisions for foreign VET qualifications (excluding HE). Validation is not possible.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment; positive equivalency decisions may support access to public-sector employment and professional rights associated with the recognised qualification.	
	Applicable legal basis	Law 4115/2013 (Article 14); Secondary legislation governing the Equivalence Committee (Official Gazette 3710/2017 ; 3095/2024).	Presidential Decree 38/2010 (primarily applied to HE qualifications), transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	Law 4115/2013 (Article 14) establishes a formal equivalency framework for foreign VET qualifications administered by EOPPEP. Equivalency decisions may support access to employment, further studies and, in some cases, professional rights.	
Hungary	Information centre	Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (HEIC /ENIC-NARIC Hungary) provides information on recognition procedures and qualification systems.	ENIC-NARIC Hungary acts as the national assistance/contact point for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	ENIC-NARIC Hungary provides information and guidance on recognition procedures and foreign qualifications intended for employment purposes. Under Act C of 2001, individuals may request an equivalence assessment of foreign qualifications through the general recognition framework.	There is no information on validation initiatives connected to labour market. Some skills assessment might be available in PES through career guidance but not in a formalised manner.

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess foreign qualifications and decide on admission. The director of the education and training institution is entitled to make decisions on the exemptions through validation but there are no formal guidelines.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employers decide on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	Act C of 2001 on the Recognition of Foreign Certificates and Diplomas	Act C of 2001 ; Government Decree No. 33/2008 transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated recognition framework specifically for non-regulated professions; Act C of 2001 on the Recognition of Foreign Certificates and Diplomas establishes a general framework for recognition and equivalence of foreign qualifications, including for employment purpose	
Iceland	Information centre	ENIC-NARIC Iceland provides information and issues non-binding advisory statements for foreign VET and upper secondary qualifications, referencing qualification level (NQF/EQF) and access to HE.	ENIC-NARIC Iceland acts as national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and coordinating information on competent authorities and recognition procedures through the www.island.is portal.	ENIC-NARIC Iceland provides information and issues non-binding advisory statements on foreign VET and upper secondary qualifications to support employment decisions and salary placement.	The professional certification of working life (<i>Fagbréf atvinnulífsins</i>) developed by Education and Training Service Centre (ETSC) in cooperation with social partners assess skills connected to specific professions.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission; they are also in charge of validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	No dedicated legal framework on academic recognition; Higher Education Institutions Act No. 63/2006 provides for mutual recognition of parts of study programmes, while recognition practices are informed by the LRC and the Nordic Agreement.	Act on the recognition of professional qualifications for the pursuit of an activity in Iceland, No. 26/2010 ; Regulation No. 585/2011 , transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of foreign qualifications in non-regulated professions; case-by-case assessment.	
Ireland	Information centre	Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI /NARIC Ireland) provides information and advisory comparability statements for foreign VET qualifications, referencing the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).	NARIC Ireland provides information and guidance and signposting to competent authorities; National Assistance Centre for Professional Qualifications provides information on regulated professions and signposting to competent authorities.	NARIC Ireland provides information and advisory comparability statements supporting employers and individuals in assessing foreign qualifications, including VET. Qualifications are compared to Irish NFQ where possible.	The Collaboration Fund and subsequent funding rounds have developed several projects in which the Education Training Borads (ETB) provide up- and re-skilling opportunities. These initiatives aimed to support employees to gain qualifications and badges through validation.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission and validation of prior learning (referred to as RPL).	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions and maintain professional registers where applicable.	Employer decides on recruitment.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Applicable legal basis	Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act 2012 ; recognition practices based on LRC.	S.I. No. 139/2008 – Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) Regulations.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition in non-regulated professions. Recognition support operates through the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act 2012 and QQI/NARIC Ireland recognition services.	
Italy	Information centre	Recognition of foreign VET qualifications is primarily organised at regional level within the Italian VET system. CIMEA/NARIC Italy mainly provides information and comparability statements for upper secondary and HE qualifications and may provide guidance on foreign VET qualifications where relevant. Applicants may also be directed to competent regional authorities.	Assistance Centre for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications provides information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities.	Information and recognition support for foreign qualifications in non-regulated professions may be provided through professional associations, regional authorities, universities, accredited certification bodies and qualification/skills validation arrangements. NARIC Italy does not generally assess purely VET qualifications for labour-market purposes.	The validation system designed by Decree 13/2013 covers all qualifications and thus it includes also the professional qualifications (those regulated and not regulated).
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions decide on admission. Universities and competent institutions may assess equivalence for academic purposes. Validation arrangements may also be carried out by accredited bodies or regional authorities.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment; voluntary professional attestations and competence certification arrangements may support labour-market recognition.	
	Applicable legal basis	No dedicated legal framework for VET; regional VET legislation.	Legislative Decree No. 206/2007 transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition in non-regulated professions.	
Latvia	Information centre	Academic Information Centre (AIC /Latvian ENIC-NARIC) performs expert examination of foreign VET qualifications, provides information and issues formal recognition statements indicating the corresponding level or equivalence within the Latvian education system and the Latvian Qualifications Framework (LQF).	Latvian ENIC-NARIC acts as the information authority and national assistance centre and provides information and guidance on legislation, procedures and competent authorities for regulated professions.	Latvian ENIC-NARIC provides information and issues formal recognition statements indicating the corresponding level or equivalence of foreign qualifications within the Latvian education system and LQF.	The State Employment Agency (SEA) supports unemployed persons in identifying and documenting their skills but there is no specific system of validation connected to the labour market.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions decide on admission and are in charge of validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions; AIC receives and evaluates applications and forwards documentation together with its statement to the competent authority.	Employer decides on recruitment; recognition statements issued by AIC are informative and recommendatory in nature when used for employment in non-regulated professions.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Applicable legal basis	Law on Education , Article 11; recognition practices based on LRC.	Law on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualification implementing Directive 2005/36/EC.	Law on Education , Article 11, establishing a formal framework for expert examination and issuance of recognition statements for foreign educational qualifications, including for employment purposes in non-regulated professions.	
Lithuania	Information centre	Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC /ENIC-NARIC Lithuania) provides information and performs academic recognition of VET qualifications, whereas KPMPC provides information on VET education in general and professional recognition of VET qualifications (i.e. validation of competences) done by designated competence evaluation centres.	Innovation Agency , under the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, acts as national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities; ENIC-NARIC Lithuania may provide supporting academic recognition where required.	ENIC-NARIC Lithuania and KPMPC provide information on qualifications and recognition procedures; ENIC-NARIC Lithuania may issue academic recognition decisions or level recommendations that can support employment decisions.	The law on employment (Lithuanian Parliament, 2016) introduced validation of non-formal and informal learning as a measure supporting lifelong learning and employability. Under Article 39 (amended in 2022), Public Employment Services may, in agreement with the unemployed person, organise validation procedures leading to certification of a full VET qualification or part of it.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission (including validation of prior learning); ENIC-NARIC Lithuania issues formal academic recognition decisions upon application.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	Government Resolution No. 475/2024 on academic recognition of foreign qualifications based on the LRC, as well as linked national education and VET legislation.	Law on the Recognition of Regulated Professional Qualifications ; transposition of Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of foreign qualifications in non-regulated professions.	
Luxembourg	Information centre	Ministry for Education, Children and Youth (MENJE) through its Diploma Recognition Service , provides information and guidance on recognition of foreign secondary and VET qualifications.	Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR /NARIC Luxembourg) acts as national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities.	MENJE and MESR provide information and guidance on recognition and equivalence procedures for foreign qualifications; work certificates may be considered where differences in training content or duration are identified.	VAE provides an additional pathway to formal qualifications through recognition of competences acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning. VAE arrangements are governed in a tripartite manner, with validation commissions including employer, trade union and education representatives.
	Competent authority	MENJE issues legally binding recognition decisions; education and training institutions decide on admission and may also grant access through validation of prior learning (Validation des acquis de l'expérience – VAE).	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	Law of 19 December 2008 on VET and related education legislation; recognition practices informed by the LRC.	Law of 28 October 2016 on recognition of professional qualifications and Grand-Ducal Regulation of 17 February 2017 , transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of foreign qualifications in non-regulated professions.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
Malta	Information centre	Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) (within the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority – MFHEA /ENIC-NARIC Malta) provides information and issues recognition statements for formal foreign VET qualifications referencing qualifications to the MQF.	ENIC-NARIC Malta/MQRIC, operating within the MFHEA and acting as the national assistance centre for regulated professions, provides information, guidance and comparability support concerning foreign qualifications and directs applicants to the relevant competent authorities.	ENIC-NARIC provides information and issues recognition statements concerning foreign qualifications, which may support employers and other stakeholders in understanding the level and profile of qualifications.	Malta operates validation arrangements for VNFIL within the MQF. National Occupational Standards, currently numbering more than 100, support the validation of competences and their linkage to VET qualifications referenced to MQF/EQF levels. Sector Skills Units (SSUs), expected to operate under the remit of the National Skills Council, oversee skills audit and sectoral skills intelligence activities within their respective sectors.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission; some institutions might be assessment centres allowed to carry out validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	Further and Higher Education Act (Cap. 607); Malta Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning Regulations (S.L. 607.01); Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the European Region Regulations (S.L. 451.02) implementing the LRC (not yet in force).	Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act (Cap. 451); Recognition of Professional Qualifications Regulations (S.L. 451.03), transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition in non-regulated professions; recognition support operates through the Further and Higher Education Act (Cap. 607) and Malta Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning Regulations (S.L. 607.01).	
Netherlands	Information centre	SBB provides information and issues comparability statements (non-binding) for foreign formal VET qualifications at NLQF/EQF levels 1-4; Nuffic (ENIC-NARIC Netherlands) provides information and credential evaluation for access to HE.	ENIC-NARIC Netherlands acts as national assistance centre for regulated professions, in cooperation with SBB for VET qualifications, and provides information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities. ENIC-NARIC Netherlands may also provide evaluations of foreign HE qualifications directly to competent authorities to support recognition decisions in regulated professions.	SBB provides information and issues comparability statements for foreign VET qualifications; ENIC-NARIC Netherlands and SBB jointly operate the International Credential Evaluation (IDW) structure supporting credential evaluation for employment and study purposes.	The Netherlands operates differentiated validation routes for educational and professional purposes, which are interconnected. Accredited providers coordinated through the National Knowledge Centre for Validation of Prior Learning (Nationaal Kenniscentrum EVC – NKEVC) may award certificates of experience (ervaringscertificaat). Certificates of vocational competence (vakbekwaamheidsbewijs) may also be awarded and are distinct from formal VET diplomas.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications, decide on admission and are in charge of validation. Certificates of experience may support admission or exemptions.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment; comparability statements issued through the IDW structure are advisory and non-binding.	
	Applicable legal basis	Adult and Vocational Education Act (Wet Educatie en Beroepsonderwijs); Higher Education and Research Act ; Education Inspection Act ; recognition practices informed by LRC.	General Act on the Recognition of EU Professional Qualifications (Algemene wet erkenning EU-beroepskwalificaties) transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition in non-regulated professions; credential evaluation procedures operate through the IDW structure and the Adult and Vocational Education Act.	

Purpose		Recognition and validation processes			
Country		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
Norway	Information centre	Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir/ENIC-NARIC Norway), including the Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service (NUCAS), provide information on foreign qualifications and admission requirements; foreign VET qualifications are generally not recognised through a dedicated scheme for access to further learning or HE.	ENIC-NARIC Norway acting as the national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities.	ENIC-NARIC Norway provides information and carries out formal recognition procedures for foreign VET qualifications at upper secondary and post-secondary vocational level.	Under the Education Act, adults have the right to have their real competence assessed and documented. Validation of prior learning (<i>realkompetansevurdering</i>) is connected to formal VET programmes and carried out by Career Guidance Centres ('karrieresentre') outside the formal system. It is not part of the central recognition scheme for foreign VET qualifications.
	Competent authority	NUCAS and education and training institutions assess qualifications and process admission applications. NUCAS operates the centralised admission system for higher education, while individual institutions may impose additional admission requirements and are responsible for final admission decisions and validation arrangements.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	ENIC-NARIC Norway issues legally binding recognition decisions confirming comparability to Norwegian VET qualifications; employers retain discretion in recruitment decisions.	
	Applicable legal basis	Education Act (2023); General admission requirements (GSU-list framework). No dedicated recognition scheme for foreign VET qualifications for access to further learning or studies.	Professional Qualifications Act ; Regulations on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications transposing Directives 2005/36/EC.	Education Act (Section 23-3) – upper secondary VET; Vocational Education Act (Section 7) completed by Vocational Education Regulation (Chapter 9, sections 56 to 58) – post-secondary VET.	
Poland	Information centre	Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA – ENIC-NARIC Poland) provides information and guidance on recognition procedures for foreign qualifications, including upper secondary VET qualifications, and may issue advisory recognition statements regarding the level and status of qualifications (via the KWALIFIKATOR system or an individual statement).	NAWA and the Ministry of Education and Science (national assistance centre) provide information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities.	NAWA provides information on recognition procedures and may issue advisory recognition statements regarding foreign qualifications to support employment and further learning purposes.	Validation of prior learning is possible for all qualifications included in Poland's Integrated Qualifications System (IQS). 'Market qualifications' included in Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks (e.g. banking, IT, telecommunications, sports, textile and construction) can be acquired through validation.
	Competent authority	Recognition of foreign upper secondary VET qualifications is carried out through automatic recognition or administrative recognition by regional education superintendents; education and training institutions take final admission decisions. Validation is possible through the central examination board.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Applicable legal basis	Act of 7 September 1991 ; Law on Higher Education and Science (2018) informed by the LRC; Regulation of the Minister of National Education (2015)	Act of 22 December 2015 transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	No dedicated legal framework for recognition of foreign qualifications in non-regulated professions. Academic nostrification procedures under the Law on Higher Education and Science (2018) apply mainly to HE qualifications.	
Portugal	Information centre	Qualifica Centres provide information, guidance and initial processing of applications for recognition of foreign non-higher VET qualifications within the National Qualifications System (NQS). The National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP) coordinates the process and issues final decisions. For HE qualifications, the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES) provides information and coordinates recognition procedures.	Directorate-General for Employment and Industrial Relations (DGERT) acts as national assistance centre, providing information and guidance on procedures and competent authorities for regulated professions.	Qualifica Centres provide information and process applications for recognition of foreign non-higher VET qualifications within the National Qualifications System. Recognition may also be achieved through Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences (RVCC) procedures coordinated by Qualifica Centres and ANQEP.	The National System of Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences (known as Reconhecimento, Validação e Certificação de Competências or RVCC) is carried out by the Qualifica centres that are accredited by ANQEP. Applicants can follow three paths: a) school RVCC (<i>RVCC Escolar</i>) based on educational standards, b) professional RVCC (<i>RVCC Professional</i>) based on professional standards or c) a combination. The applicant can manage a Qualifica Passport (Passaporte Qualifica) (Ordinance No 47/2017).
	Competent authority	Qualifica Centres analyse applications and issue technical opinions concerning recognition of foreign VET qualifications based on correspondence with qualifications in the National Catalogue of Qualifications (NCQ). ANQEP adopts the final decision. Public HEIs and DGES carry out automatic, level and specific recognition procedures for higher education qualifications. Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences (RVCC) procedures may also support access to qualifications and further studies.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions; DGERT coordinates the national system and the Internal Market Information (IMI) system for professional qualifications.	Employers decide on recruitment. Qualifica Centres issue favourable or unfavourable technical opinions on correspondence between foreign qualifications and qualifications included in the NCQ, with final decisions adopted by ANQEP.	
	Applicable legal basis	National Qualifications System (Decree-Law No. 396/2007); Order No. 13584/2014 regulating recognition of foreign vocational training certificates.	Law No. 9/2009 transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	National Qualifications System (Decree-Law No. 396/2007) establishes a formal framework for recognition of foreign non-higher VET qualifications through the National Qualifications System and the National Catalogue of Qualifications.	
Romania	Information centre	The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED /ENIC-NARIC Romania) provides information and processes applications for recognition of foreign VET qualifications.	ENIC-NARIC Romania acts as the national assistance centre and provides information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities.	ENIC-NARIC Romania provides information and recognition procedures for formal VET qualifications; ANC provides information on recognition and certification of competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning pathways.	Validation is only possible through accredited assessment centres and connected to formal qualifications. Assessment centres are created either by the private sector or by the public sector through the National

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Competent authority	ENIC-NARIC Romania issues legally binding recognition and equivalence decisions for foreign qualifications obtained through accredited formal education programmes. Education and training institutions decide on admission, while some of them might be accredited to carry out validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions; the National Authority for Qualifications (ANC) is responsible for recognition of certain vocational qualifications obtained through training completed in EU Member States for labour-market access purposes.	Employer decides on recruitment; ENIC-NARIC Romania and ANC may issue recognition decisions for labour market purposes (where applicable).	Agency for Employment and its regional branches/centres.
	Applicable legal basis	Order of the Minister of Education no. 4.620/2024 ; Government Decision no. 513/2025 ; recognition practices aligned with LRC.	Law no. 200/2004 on recognition of professional qualifications transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	Order of the Minister of Education no. 4.620/2024 (including formal, non-formal and informal learning); Government Decision no. 513/2025	
Slovakia	Information centre	The Centre for Recognition of Diplomas (CRD , ENIC-NARIC Slovakia) provides information and guidance on foreign VET qualifications; it also operates automatic recognition statements confirming the level of attained education for upper secondary VET qualifications granting access to HE.	ENIC-NARIC Slovakia acts as national assistance centre for regulated professions, providing information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities.	ENIC-NARIC Slovakia provides information and issues recognition statements confirming level of attained education to support labour-market access in non-regulated professions.	There is no separate labour market validation process. A certificate of partial or full qualification is issued by an educational institution accredited to carry out validation by the education ministry. It is possible only concerning 46 qualifications.
	Competent authority	Regional School Administration Offices issue recognition decisions for completed primary and secondary education qualifications; education providers might be accredited validation centres.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employers decide on recruitment.	
	Applicable legal basis	Act No. 422/2015 Coll. ; recognition procedures based on LRC.	Act No. 422/2015 Coll. transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	Act No. 422/2015 Coll. establishes a formal right for individuals to request recognition of foreign educational qualifications for labour-market use in non-regulated professions.	
Slovenia	Information centre	ENIC-NARIC Slovenia provides information, guidance and assessment procedures for foreign VET qualifications, issuing comparability statements/opinions (non-binding) that reference the qualification level (NQF/EQF).	Ministry of Labour acts as the national assistance centre on regulated professions, providing information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities; profession-specific ministries and chambers may also provide information and process applications.	ENIC-NARIC Slovenia provides information, guidance and assessment procedures, issuing comparability statements (non-binding) on foreign qualifications for employment purposes.	Slovenia's labour-market validation is governed by the National Professional Qualifications Act under the Ministry of Labour. The validation procedures are carried out by training providers and sectoral organisations that are accredited training providers or by private and public
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications, decide on admission and are in charge of validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions	Employers decide on recruitment.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Applicable legal basis	Assessment and Recognition of Education Act (ZVPI); General Administrative Procedure Act ; recognition practices based on LRC principles.	Act on the Procedure for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications transposing Directive 2005/36/EC.	ZVPI established a formal assessment procedure allowing individuals to request comparability statements on foreign VET qualifications.	institutions entered in the register of contractors of the National Examinations Centres. Employers can provide their employees with a certain qualification that is specific to the work requirements of the company.
Spain	Information centre	NARIC Spain provides general information on recognition procedures and directs applicants to the competent authorities; the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports and, where competences are decentralised, the autonomous communities provide information on recognition procedures for foreign VET qualifications.	Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (Spanish national assistance centre), together with relevant ministries and regional authorities, provides information and guidance on professional recognition procedures.	NARIC Spain provides general information on recognition procedures and directs applicants to the competent authorities.	Spain operates a nationally harmonised validation process under Royal Decree 143/2021 that is permanently open and may lead to occupational certificates or IVET diplomas referenced to the National Catalogue of Professional Competence Standards
	Competent authority	Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports (or competent regional authorities) issue legally binding recognition decisions; education and training institutions decide on admission and are in charge of validation.	Competent authorities designated per profession (ministries, regional authorities and other designated bodies) issue legally binding recognition decision.	Employers decide on recruitment; Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports (or competent regional authorities) may issue legally binding academic equivalence or recognition decisions that can support employment purposes.	
	Applicable legal basis	Royal Decree 104/1988 ; Organic Law 3/2022 ; Royal Decree 659/2023	Royal Decree 1837/2008 (transposing Directive 2005/36/EC), as amended by Royal Decree 581/2017	No dedicated legal framework for recognition in non-regulated professions; academic equivalence and recognition procedures governed by Royal Decree 104/1988 ; Organic Law 3/2022 ; Royal Decree 659/2023	
Sweden	Information centre	The Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR/ENIC-NARIC Sweden) provides information and issues advisory statements (non-binding) for formal upper secondary VET qualifications granting access to higher education (typically EQF level 4), confirming that the qualification meets general entry requirements for university studies and, where relevant, including comparability to national programmes.	ENIC-NARIC Sweden acts as the national assistance centre for regulated professions and provides information and guidance on recognition procedures and competent authorities; it may also support competent authorities through profession-specific assessments where requested.	ENIC-NARIC Sweden provides information through the Qualification Assessments Tool and issues advisory statements (non-binding) for formal VET qualifications, referencing qualification level (NQF/EQF) and, for upper secondary 'access' qualifications (EQF level 4), comparability to national programmes; used to support employment decisions, while post-secondary VET qualifications are assessed for employment purposes only.	Sweden has extensive sector-specific validation, led jointly by employer and employee organisations. This are supported via a state grant administered by the National Agency for Higher Vocational Education. PES commissions validation for in-demand professions delivered by external providers.
	Competent authority	Education and training institutions assess qualifications and decide on admission. Individuals can validate competences via the municipal adult education (<i>Komvux</i> in Swedish).	Competent authorities designated per profession issue legally binding recognition decisions.	Employer decides on recruitment.	

Purpose Country	Recognition and validation processes				
		For further learning	For employment (regulated)	For employment (non-regulated)	Validation in the labour market
	Applicable legal basis	Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) based on LRC; UHR regulations (UHRFS 2013:1); limited to upper secondary 'access' VET qualifications; post-secondary VET not used for this purpose.	Law (2016:145) transposing Directive 2005/36/EC; Ordinance (2016:157).	ENIC-NARIC Sweden is mandated to assess foreign qualifications also for non-regulated professions. Recognition of upper secondary VET qualifications is based on the Education Act (2010:800) and Upper Secondary School Ordinance (2010:2039), while post-secondary VET qualifications are compared to Swedish Higher Vocational Education under the Vocational Higher Education Act (2009:128) and Ordinance (2009:130).	

Source: Authors

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