Harnessing youth employability in the Western Balkans

Relevance of validation of non-formal and informal learning for Youth Guarantee schemes

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Validation of non-formal and informal learning

‘A process of confirmation by an authorised body that an individual has acquired learning outcomes measured against a relevant standard’

2012 Council Recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning

EUR-Lex - 32012H1222(01) - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)
Key elements in the definition

01 Learning outcomes
02 Standards
03 Authorised body

Formal recognition

Various stages of implementation
Selected principles in validation arrangements

2012 Recommendation

- Disadvantaged groups, including unemployed are particularly likely to benefit from validation
- Unemployed have the opportunity to undergo 'skills audits' aimed at identifying their knowledge, skills and competences
- Transparent QA measures - reliable, valid and credible assessment
- Professional competences of staff
- Use of transparency tools: Europass, Youthpass to facilitate documentation of learning
## State of play in the WB region

*Source: ETF 2021 NQF Country Fiches*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBANIA</td>
<td></td>
<td>VNFIL - one of the priority measures in national employment and skills strategies (NESS), provisions in VET and AQF laws. Implementation had so far been confined to pilots.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Concept for establishing country-wide VNFIL arrangements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONTENEGRO</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Adoption of secondary legislation defining the procedures for VNFIL in accordance with the revised law on national vocational qualifications (NVQs). Examination Centre organises training and licensing of assessors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTH MACEDONIA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced regulatory framework and methodological packages, pilot activities in 2 occupations implemented in 2021. Some amendments to laws pending. Support of EU project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERBIA</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Set of activities implemented with the support of NQF project, guidelines and rulebooks developed on RPL providers and processes. Pilot activities took place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
European inventory on validation of non-formal and informal learning

2018  Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey

2021  Azerbaijan, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova, Ukraine

2022  Western Balkan Countries

Validation systems are in place but scaling up is challenging

- Identifying profiles of candidates
- Attracting candidates – information, outreach
- Supporting providers and practitioners
- Designing services in line with users’ needs
- Funding models
Validation - for whom?

*Reinforced Youth Guarantee: young persons under the age of 30*

- Persons with skills
- Work experience
  - Unpaid work in family business
  - Caring for family members
  - Volunteer work
  - Hobby

- Can be combined with ...
  - Work based learning
  - Internship
  - Training
Validation process - connections with active labour market measures

1. Identification
2. Documentation
3. Assessment
4. Certification
5. Preparation of a plan for further development and learning

Carried out independently or with the assistance of an advisor
Carried out by an assessor

Source: Instytut Badań Edukacyjnych (IBE)
Use of validation in combination with training in the Youth Guarantee – potential benefits

- Shorter training time
- Reduced cost of training
- Motivation boost
Accredited training programmes for youth workers

https://www.aufzaq.at/english/

Over 40 accredited training courses for youth workers linked to Austrian NQF enabling progression (levels, III, IV, V, VI)

Competence frameworks
Transparency tools

‘Youthpass is a certificate and an educational approach that helps young people and youth workers who participate in the EU youth programme activities become more aware of their learning and develop their ability to learn. It is a recognition and validation instrument that helps participants to document the competences they have acquired and in turn present them in relevant contexts.’

Youthpass Strategy 2021, www.youthpass.eu

Digital self-assessment tools: www.myskills.de (Germany)
Accredita (Spain)

E-portfolios: Europass

Used for identification and documentation phases
Potential collaboration

- Information and outreach
- Referral
- Funding and cost-sharing
- Stock-taking on qualifications and learning outcomes
- VNFIL embedded in learning paths
Thank you!

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European Training Foundation