

AGENDA

Advancing validation of non-formal and informal learning – networking and peer learning event

28 - 30 NOVEMBER 2023

HOTEL POINT, ANKARA, TÜRKIYE

SUMMARY:

Validation of non-formal and informal learning is an important element of lifelong learning policies. It allows for identification, documentation assessment and certification of skills that individuals acquired outside of education systems, through work life, civic engagements or hobbies. The certificates issued through validation can support mobility in education or on the labour market.

The ETF Partner Countries have engaged in development of their national validation systems, often inspired by the European policies¹ and linking validation to newly established qualifications frameworks. ETF has been monitoring these developments since 2018 with a periodic inventory on VNFIL. The inventory gave us a good overview of the stage of development, features of validation systems, issues that create bottlenecks in scaling up validation systems as well as potential success factors.

Most of ETF Partners Countries included validation in their education agendas and introduce relevant legislation. However, it is not easy to scale up validation services. The institutions delivering validation need a strong support in designing a service that is trusted and that caters to the needs of various groups of users. Validation can support multiple policies, but it requires strong and strategic partnerships built across education, training, employment and economic development sectors.

The proposed event aims at creating an informal network among ETF partner countries and enabling peer learning opportunities in support of further advancement of the validation systems. It will be organised in Türkiye where a robust certification system has been created (over 2 million certificates issued so far) and will include inputs from the Turkish Vocational Qualifications Authority (VQA) and study visits to the selected Authorised Certification Bodies.

¹ COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32012H1222%2801%29>

LANGUAGES:

English, French, Russian, Turkish

PROGRAMME:

ARRIVAL – MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Time (Ankara)	Agenda Item
19:30 20:00	Welcome aperitivo Dinner Hotel Point, Ankara

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Time (Ankara)	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival and registration	
9:30 – 10:00	Formal opening: welcome and objectives of the event Programme of the event	Prof. Dr. Mustafa Necmi İLHAN, President, Vocational Qualifications Authority, Türkiye Mr. Mustafa Balci, Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye Ms. Manuela Prina, Head of Skills Identification and Development Unit, ETF Ms. Maria Rosenstock, Expert, ETF
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Setting up the scene:</i> Role of validation of non-formal and informal learning in the EU skills agenda, Turkish vision – validation in the Turkish Qualifications Framework Strategy Key developments in the ETF Partner Countries	Ms. Sofie Doskarova, European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (online) Prof. Dr. Şakir Çinkir, TQF strategy and validation of non-formal and informal learning Maria Rosenstock, ETF
10:30 - 11:15	VQA Presentation on the national qualifications system and the certification system Q&A	Ms. Elif Özlem Babaoğlu, Head of Assessment and Certification Department, VQA Ms. Nesrin Doğan, Head of TQF Department, VQA
11:15 – 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	

Time (Ankara)	Agenda Item	Presenter
11:45 - 12:45	<i>Panel discussion:</i> Validation of non-formal learning in the national strategies, from initiatives to system. Ensuring access to VNFIL for everybody.	Ministry of Education, Türkiye: Dr. Kadir Burak Salimoğlu, General Directorate of Private Educational Institutions Dr. Yaprak Akçay Zileli, V-ce President, Vocational Qualifications Authority, Türkiye Assoc. Prof. Aslı Günay, Council of Higher Education, Türkiye Guests representatives of ETF partner countries: Kazakhstan: Ms. Lyazat Shonayeva, "Atameken" National Chamber of Entrepreneurs Montenegro: Mr. Goran Drobnjak Head of Directorate for Lifelong Learning, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation Ukraine: Mr. Vasyl Fediuk- Head of Secretariat National Qualifications Agency (NQA) Ukraine
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:45 – 14:30	Where are we? Exercise on positioning validation systems of Partner Countries on the road to validation for all.	All participants
14:30 – 15:00	Updates on the European Guidelines on validation of non-formal and informal learning and initial results of the European validation inventory. Q&A	Mr. Ernesto Villalba-Garcia, Expert, Cedefop (online)
15:00 – 15:15	EBRD support to the development of the certification system.	Ms. Theresa Niederle, Senior Manager, Inclusive Policies Gender and Economic Inclusion, EBRD Office, EBRD Ankara
15:15 – 15:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:45 – 16:30	Exchange about the network on VNFIL (expectations, aims, tools, commitments)	All participants
16:30 – 16:45	Preparatory information on study visits on day 2, wrap up day 1	ETF

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2023- STUDY VISITS TO THE AUTHORIZED CERTIFICATION BODIES

Time (Ankara)	Group 1	Time	Group 2
9:00 – 10:00	Transfer to the Authorized Certification Body: Türkiye MYM Training Site https://intesmym.org.tr/	9:00 – 9:30	Transfer to the Authorized Certification Body: TOBB (The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye) MEYBEM https://meybem.com.tr/index.php
10:00 – 12:00	Site visit	9:30 – 11:30	Site visit
12:00 – 13:00	Return to the hotel for lunch	11:30 – 12:00	Return to the hotel for lunch
13:00 -14:00	Lunch in the hotel	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch in the hotel
14:00 - 14:30	Transfer to the Authorized Certification Body: TOBB (The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye) MEYBEM https://meybem.com.tr/index.php	13:00 – 14:00	Transfer to the Authorized Certification Body: Türkiye MYM https://intesmym.org.tr/ Training Site (approx. 60 min)
14:30 – 16:30	Site visit	14:00 – 16:00	Site visit
16:30 – 17:00	Transfer to the hotel	16:00 – 17:00	Transfer to the hotel

DAY 3 – THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2023

Time (Ankara)	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:00 – 9:05	Introduction to DAY 3	Maria Rosenstock, Arjen Deij, ETF
9:05 – 9:45	Comparison of reflections from the visits to the Turkish Certification Bodies.	Rapporteurs and discussion (perspectives: individual, provider, system)
9:45 – 10:45	Peer presentations from ETF Partner Countries: Azerbaijan and Moldova. Q and A Discussion and exchange in language groups on validation providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> centralised vs decentralised approaches how much regulation is necessary for the providers (QA and accreditations)? conditions to support institutions to in assisting individuals with information, guidance and access to further learning. 	Ms. Konul Ahmadova, Head of Unit, Recognition of Non-formal and Informal Education, TKTA (Agency for Quality Assurance in Education), Azerbaijan Mr. Sergiu Coceaş, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Education and Science, Moldova
10:45 - 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:15 – 11:45	Presentation on financing validation in the Swedish Higher Vocational Education Q and A	Ms. Anna Kahlson, Senior Advisor, Swedish Agency for Higher VET
12:00 – 12:40	Presentation from Italy: VNFIL systems in the Italian regions of Umbria and Tuscany Q and A	Mr. Christian Biagini, ARPAL Umbria, Italy Mr. Giulio Iannis, Pluriversum, Italy
12:40 - 13:40	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:40 – 14:10	Best practices on validation in the European Union - the perspective of European Vocational Training Association and Lifelong learning platform (LLP) Q and A	Mr. Vasilis Siomadis, Board Member, European Vocational Training Association – EVTA
14:10 - 15:00	Card exercise on takeaways in language groups, discussion	All participants
15:00 – 15:45	Next steps (revisiting the plans for the network) and closing	ETF