

EVENT PROGRAMME

Validation of non-formal and informal learning

Networking and peer learning event, Ankara, Türkiye

28-30 November 2023

Background information

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. In the period 2021-2023 ETF studied the validation systems in sixteen Partner Countries². 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. 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.

Dates: 28, 29 and 30 November 2023. Welcome dinner on 27 November 2023 in the evening.

Venue: Ankara, hotel (tbd) and field visit to 2 ACBs.

Participants: technical-level policy makers from ETF partner countries who work on validation of non-formal and informal learning. 2 participants from 19 Partner Countries will be invited, the expected number of participants from the Turkish side is 15 persons. The principal target group are policy makers concerned with validation of non-formal and informal learning from those ETF Partner Countries which were covered by the ETF Validation Inventory. An extended group of participants from Central Asia is expected whose participation will be financed by the currently implemented by ETF DARYA project.

Languages: 3 language groups: English, French, Russian. Interpretation in Russian and French will be provided.

Objectives:

- (1) to learn about the Turkish experience with the ACBs, to carry out site visit and reflect on the success factors
- (2) to launch an informal network which will support wider implementation of validation systems in ETF Partner Countries with annual peer learning
- (3) to discuss conditions and explore building blocks necessary for scaling up validation systems in ETF Partners Countries
- (4) to reflect on the European approach presented in the new 2023 edition of [European Guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning](#)

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>

² EaP: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, SEET: all Western Balkan countries and Türkiye, SEMED: Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

(5) to present other countries' cases (with presentations from ETF Partner Countries and EU Member States).

Programme of the event:

27 November 2023 (Monday)

Welcome dinner

28 November 2023 (Tuesday)

Morning session:

Formal opening: ETF and VQA

Presentations from the EU DG EMPL

Presentation from Cedefop (Recent update of EU Guidelines on validation)

ETF - facilitated exchange on the vision for the network

Work in groups to get to know each other

Lunch

Afternoon session:

Presentation of the Turkish Certification system by VQA.

Reflection (workshops) on the progress in selected dimensions/building blocks of validation in ETF Partner Countries

29 November 2023 (Wednesday) – Turkish certification system

Morning session:

Field visits in the ACBs. The participants will be split into 2 groups and will visit two different ACBs (duration of on-site visit : 3hrs)

Return to the main event venue.

Lunch

Afternoon session:

Reflections on the visits in a guided exercise mode – success factors of the Turkish system

Reporting in the plenary.

30 November 2023 (Thursday):

Morning session:

Further presentations from the EU Member States, Q&A

Workshop on selected building blocks of validation

Presentations from the ETF Partner Country Q&A

Lunch

Afternoon session:

Presentation from ETF Partner Country Q&A

Workshop work on selected building blocks of validation

Agreement on the network design

Closing