
Criteria for recognition of VET diplomas at international level (R3)

LEONARDO DA VINCI Transfer of Innovation Project
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I. Executive summary

WP3 “*Sharing the results of former projects and summarizing key issues*” is a key work package for the development of the project’s core outcomes. Its results represent the basis for designing the methodologies and tools for the transfer of innovation. WP3 relies on desk research and field research to be performed in Estonia, Germany (Saxony) and Romania with the purpose to collect useful data about the partners’ previous projects on RPL, about the current status of RPL implementation from VET to HE in partner countries, on recognition criteria of VET diplomas.

This document is a transnational report presenting the research findings from all partners in the framework of WP3 on the *criteria for recognition of VET diplomas at international level*.

As indicated in the application, this document is prerequisite of WPs 4-6, namely transfer and adaptation of results of former projects and summarized key issue, to German, Estonian and Romanian contexts.

This document represents the project third result and part of the set of outcomes/deliverables for WP3.

II. Objective

This desk research was aimed to gather information and practice about criteria for recognition of VET diplomas at international level. As explained above, these criteria will help the consortium to better understand realities in the targeted countries, adapt the outcomes for the transfer and perform a successful transfer.

III. Methodology

The desk research on criteria for recognition of VET diplomas at international level was achieved at national level, in Estonia, Germany and Romania, based on standardized template, discussed and agreed by all partners. The template and explanations on how to perform the research are included in the guidelines for partners on collecting data for WP3. Also, interviews to stakeholders have been applied and findings from them were used when rendering this report.

IV. Findings

The research findings are rendered below¹, per partner country.

(a) In **Estonia**:

Currently existing mechanisms, procedures and methodologies in for the recognition of VET diplomas obtained in/issued by other EU countries.

In general in Estonia there is no difference on whether the previous knowledge has been acquired on national or international level. The assessment criterions on RPL applications at Tallinn University are the same no matter if it is national or international experience:

- Prior learning and what has been learned from it needs to be logically connected with the learning outcomes of the module/course;
- Prior experience and the analysis needs to prove that all the learning outcomes have been gained;
- The application forms are filled correctly, the proof material is authentic and proves that all the learning outcomes have been gained.

(b) In **Germany**:

Currently existing mechanisms, procedures and methodologies in for the recognition of VET diplomas obtained in/issued by other EU countries.

The [Conference of German Cultural Ministers](#) offers a service to inform about the admission of foreign levels of education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB)).²

In case of a regiment profession (“reglementierter Beruf”) a governmental admission of the certificate is necessary by law. For regiment professions the access to the profession and the pursuit of one’s career is linked to particular professional qualifications by laws, regulations and administrative provisions or the job title is protected by law.³ nursery teachers and remedial teachers (Heilerziehungspfleger) are regiment professions.⁴

¹ Based on „Guidelines for partners on collecting data for WP3“ approved by the project partnership.

² Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB) im Sekretariat der Kultusministerkonferenz, Graurheindorfer Straße 157, 53117 Bonn. Anrechnung <http://www.kmk.org/zab/unsere-aufgaben.html>.

³ A list of the regiment professions is available in the following database: <http://anabin.kmk.org/anabin-datenbank.html>.

To improve recognition of foreign professional qualifications in Germany the Federal Government introduced with the „Bill to improve the assessment and recognition of foreign professional qualifications“ a possibility to recognition.⁵ With the Recognition Act a standardized and transparent procedure for all federally regulated professions was introduced.⁶ “This provides the basis for establishing the equivalence of a foreign qualification with a corresponding German qualification.”⁷

The Recognition Act includes regiment professions and vocational training within the dual system. Excluded from the Recognition Act are the professions in the responsibility of the Länder (federal states of Germany). Meanwhile the federal states have adopted their own legislation concerning the professions (nursery teachers and remedial teachers are regiment professions and in responsibility of the federal states). The “Länder” legislation on recognition became effective on 1 July 2014.⁸ A homepage exists (www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php9), which informs about the professions and the procedure of recognition.

After the recognition of the professional qualifications the applicant can apply for crediting of competences acquired outside higher education at any German university for a study program as described in Result No. 1 of WP3.

(b) In **Romania**:

Currently existing mechanisms, procedures and methodologies in for the recognition of VET diplomas obtained in/issued by other EU countries.

Recognition of studies or qualifications obtained in another state than Romania is applied in case of:

- refugees;
- person with subsidiary protection;

⁴ Appropriate institutions for admission in Saxonia: *kindergarten teachers*: Saxon state ministry of education, cultural affairs and the saxon agency of education with five district offices. *Social care workers*: Saxon state ministry of education, cultural affairs and district office of the saxon agency of education in Zwickau.

⁵ Gesetz zur Verbesserung der Feststellung und Anerkennung im Ausland erworbener Berufsqualifikationen vom 6. Dezember 2011. Bundesgesetzblatt I No 63, 2011

⁶ Federally regulated professions regiment and non-regiment professions.

⁷ <http://www.bmbf.de/en/15644.php>

⁸ <http://www.bmbf.de/en/15644.php>

- persons wishing to continue studies;
- persons wishing to get a job.

Recognition means to analyze a diploma or certificate obtained abroad, by comparing it with diplomas awarded to Romania, in order to see the level at which the person requesting recognition is placed in the Romanian educational system.

The recognition of studies or qualifications observes national and European legislation:

- Education Law no. 84/1995, republished, with subsequent modifications and completions;
- Government Decision no. 366/2007 regarding the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, with subsequent modifications and completions;
- Government Decision no. 49/1999 on the establishment of the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas;
- Order of Minister of Education, Research and Youth no. 4022/2008 regarding the approval of Rules for Organization and Functioning of the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas;
- Law. 172/1998 on the ratification of the *Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Diplomas in the states of the European Region*, adopted in Lisbon on 11 April 1997;
- Law. 200/2004 on the recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications for the regulated professions in Romania, with subsequent modifications and completions;
- Law. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent modifications and completions;
- Government Ordinance no. 44/2004 on the social integration of foreigners who have acquired a form of protection or a right to stay in Romania, with subsequent modifications and completions.

Who can ask for recognition?

Any person who has a degree, a certificate of qualification or other document issued by a school, college or university recognized abroad may require the recognition.

Who you can ask for the recognition of diplomas and qualifications?

For the recognition of Baccalaureate, undergraduate or post-university diplomas as well as for the recognition of qualifications, an application should be submitted along with supporting documents, to the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED) - an institution that operates within the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports

(MECTS).

To continue pre-university studies (classes I - XII), the request has to be submitted to the School Inspectorate which manages the school where the applicant wants to continue his/her studies.

The School Inspectorate will send then the request to CNRED.

Who decides?

CNRED is the institution that decides on the recognition of diplomas and qualifications.

CNRED can:

- recognize the diploma or professional qualification;
- recognize the diploma or professional qualification, establishing countervailing measures (tests of knowledge / other examinations or internships / study period).
- refuse the recognition of diploma or professional qualification, by motivating its decision.

What is the automatic recognition?

Automatic recognition is simplified procedure. In the CNRED practice, the files of those who benefit from automatic recognition are not subject to regular review.

In what cases diplomas are automatically recognized?

Diplomas can be automatically recognized if:

- **diplomas issued by the same institution have been recognized before** (this happens only when the diploma was issued by an educational institution recognized in the European Union or the European Economic Area);
- there is a treaty concluded by Romania with the state that issued the diploma, whereby diplomas issued by schools or universities in that country are recognized without being analyzed.

Formatiert: Hervorheben

What is content of the procedure for recognition?

For university and post-university studies CNRED monitors whether the performed studies are similar to those in Romania regarding:

- the level of the higher education institution where the study has been conducted;
- the diploma level;
- the number of years of study / number of credits;
- the study field, the profile, the specialization;
- the study plan / the corresponding workload;
- the professional qualification (Diploma Supplement) - for the professions regulated in

- Romania.

For preuniversity studies, Baccalaureate degrees usually are automatically recognized, but when there are differences, CNRED can decide if difference exams have to be taken or studying more is necessary.

If the person has studied in home country in classes I-XII, is a minor and has the status of refugee or subsidiary protection, s/he can participate for free in a Romanian language course during one school year, at the end of which a committee will assess how well the person knows the Romanian language and decide what year of study s/he can enroll.

If the person has studied in home country in classes I-XII, but it is not a minor and s/he wants to continue in Romania the studies initiated in the home country and has school documents to prove the fact that s/he studied there, s/he will be enrolled in the year of study corresponding to the graduation year abroad or to the current graduation year abroad.

How long does it take the procedure of recognition?

For university and post-university studies:

- maximum 45 days from the date of submission of the complete dossier to CNRED;
- maximum 10 days for automatic recognition, by simplified procedure;
- 5 days in urgent cases, substantiated and proved through justifying documents;
- for PhD diplomas the period of recognition procedure is 90 days.

For preuniversity studies:

- 30 days from the date of submission of the complete dossier to CNRED;
- 3 days in urgent cases, substantiated and proved through justifying documents.

Documents proving the recognition of a diploma or a certificate are called ***Certificates of Recognition***.

Certificates of recognition for study documents in pre-university education (classes I-XII and / or post-secondary schools) are issued by CNRED.

Certificates of recognition for study documents in Higher Education (faculty, master, post-university studies in specialization, doctoral studies / or post-doctoral studies) are issued by CNRED after the approval is obtained by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.

When the recognition can be refused?

Diplomas or certificates are not recognized if:

- diploma presented for recognition was issued by an educational institution that was

not recognized in the State of origin;

- when tested, diploma presented for recognition turns out to be not genuine;

CNRED will submit in writing, within 5 working days, the reasons for non-recognition of diploma.

List of abbreviations

RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
VET	Vocational Education and Training
HE	Higher Education
LO	Learning Outcomes
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
LA	Learning Agreement
ECVET	European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training
ECTS	European Credit Transferable System