



## National states of plays

### Validation procedure in Greece: the case of Private Security Staff

In Greece, the participation of the population aged 25 to 64 in non-formal or informal education and training is not so high. According to Eurostat:

- The **participation in informal learning activities** in Greece is **14, 4 %** (Eurostat 2007)
- **11, 7 %** of the population aged 25 to 64 **learns in an informal** way (Eurostat 2011)

In Greece also there is no yet an integrated national legal framework or system on validation of non-formal and informal learning. However, the importance of non-formal and informal learning and its validation has risen and some significant steps were taken.

Specifically, the 2013 Law on the *“Organisation and operation of the Youth Foundation and Life-long Learning and of the National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance and other provisions”* gives the National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) the development of a qualification recognition and certification system acquired through non-formal education and informal learning, the certification of these qualifications and their correspondence to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) levels.

The terms and conditions for the certification of the qualifications by EOPPEP, acquired through non-formal and informal learning, are each time determined by a presidential decree which is issued after the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the relevant co-competent Minister’s proposition. The process of certifying qualifications acquired through non-formal and informal learning, the knowledge-skills-competences examination, assessment and validation system, and everything else relating to the above, falls under the authority of EOPPEP and is regulated by the same body.

At operational level, and for the achievement of the goals related to the certification of qualifications acquired through non-formal and informal learning and the licensing of certification bodies, EOPPEP (through the operational programme “Workforce Development”), implements as a beneficiary the project “Development of a National Non-formal Education and Informal Learning Outflows Certification System”, co-funded by the European Social Fund and national resources.

The certification of the workforce qualifications deriving from non-formal education and informal learning is indissolubly connected to education, vocational training and employment. Thus, it has to be based on National Standards, which include educational standards, and vocational standards whose function is described within EOPPEP’s certified vocational profiles, evaluation, validation and certification standards. It is meant to function supplementary to the formal educational system (without substituting it), contributing to



the communication of formal, non-formal education and informal learning subsystems. It is thus interconnected with the development of the National Qualifications Framework.

A specific example of the development and application of validation procedure regulations regards the professionals who do not have a formally recognised vocational title is the “Private Security Staff” specialisation. Relevant procedures took place between 2012-2014 with 11.108 individuals participating, 9.481 (85, 4%) of whom were certified.

This piloting case where the certification system was applied, was based on a fair participation as the only prerequisite was work experience regardless of whether they had prior training on the same or similar field. It fortified the participants’ right to choose to take part in any of the four stages of the process (recognition, documentation, evaluation, certification). The relevant qualifications/degrees administered were defined within the national qualifications framework and corresponded to specific initial vocational training titles.

On May 27th, 2014, IME GSEVEE, Small Enterprises’ Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen & Merchants (GSEVEE) held a National Workshop called “Promoting the validation of non-formal and informal learning in Greece”. The workshop took place in the IME GSEVEE premises.

The main aim of this workshop was to create national partnerships in order to promote awareness about validating non formal and informal learning, exchange existing experience and methodologies to form new propositions, which are to be put forward to the relevant decision maker bodies at national level.

After IME GSEVEE’s open call, there were 28 delegates participating in the workshop, representing all interested parties, such as employers, labour unions, national bodies involved in vocational qualifications recognition processes, employment services, education providers as well as organizations of citizens’ society.

IME GSEVEE has a great experience of working with validation, as participated in the development of the several national Vocational Profiles. This period also IME GSEVEE implements pilot certified training courses, in the technical field.

Finally IME GSEVEE is also cooperating with other social partners and national authorities concerned with promoting lifelong learning and developing national guidelines for the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

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