



The national framework :

There are numerous certification systems in France, if we consider that certification stems from acts consisting of evaluating a person's acquired competence and knowledge as compared with a reference defining:

- The nature of the acquired competence and knowledge to be evaluated,
- The evaluation criteria used to show possession of these acquired competence and knowledge,
- The methods used to make such evaluations,
- The actors competent to make such evaluations.

The certifying bodies concerned can be as follows:

- The French State (and in particular the ministries for Education, higher education and research, Employment, Agriculture, Youth and active solidarity, Health and Sports, and Social affairs, together with the ministry for Culture concerning certain qualification documents);
- The social partners via the vocational branches;
- Public establishments in their own name;

The law of 2002 is an inter-ministerial cooperation and the responsibility for its implementation depends on the type of qualification targeted (ministry and stakeholders). Specific rules and practices for implementation are under the responsibility of each ministry awarding qualification.

Abilities assesment :

It is an arrangement provided that enables employees in to draw up a summary of their personal and vocational experience at a given point in their vocational career. The objectives are to update on professional and personal experience of a person, to identify knowledge and skills acquired in professional and personal life, to identify potentialities. This process permits people to analyse their personal and vocational abilities in order to set up a future vocational or training project. It can be carried out within the framework of a training plan or training leave.

Validation of experience acquired (VAE)

This individual entitlement, set up by the French social modernization law of 2002, enables people holding jobs or job seekers to obtain all or part of a vocational certification, in the same way as for certification obtained through apprenticeship, or through initial or ongoing training. The application is free but guidance has a cost (different forms of financial support exist : grants from the vocational training funds , financial contribution of the employer or of the employee). The employers can combine the financial support with two days' leave of absence to prepare the VAE. Increasing numbers of companies



are implementing collective VAE for their employees (they help their employees to find accompaniment for the procedure, and propose adjustments of working hours, in order to raise their employees' qualification levels.

There are similar provisions for employees in the public sector.

Self-employed people (farmers, craftsmen, self-employed workers, tradesmen and shopkeepers, members of the professions) can also undergo training. They make obligatory contributions to finance their training, by paying in to a collecting organization approved by the French State (Source: Centre INFFO,)

Individual guidance : Represents one part of the validation quality procedures. There isn't any global quality assurance. It is a sectoral strategy. Stakeholders receive a training (quality charter) and organisations can receive an official habilitation.

The RNCP, (National Directory of Professional Certifications) **a single reference tool** :

The French Law dated 17 January 2002 confers on the CNCP (National Committee for Vocational Certification) the responsibility for drawing up and updating the RNCP. It supervises the coherence, complementarities and renewal of diplomas and qualification documents, together with their adaptation to changes in qualifications and work organization.

The composition of the French national Committee for vocational certification, which gives its opinion as to listing in the RNCP, enables it to guarantee balanced outside control of certifications, and constitutes a quality assurance criterion.

The creation of the RNCP was aimed at creating a single reference system enabling identification of certifications "for vocational purposes". The national Register of public and private vocational certifications constitutes a single national framework that integrates the sub-systems of vocational certifications stemming from initial and ongoing training, together with certifications of higher education, provided that the certifications serve vocational purposes.

The RNCP constitutes the reference tool for all the players involved in the job/training relation at a national and international level, and also for the public and companies, by providing the legibility necessary for the certification landscape in France.

Each vocational certification (data sheet in the RNCP Register) gives rise to automatic production of the Europass supplement (supplement to the certificate) which can be consulted on the CNCP site and will be issued in English, German and Spanish. Lastly, the data sheets in the Register provide the possibility of directly coding the level of correspondence between the national framework and the EQF.

French framework	EQF
Doctorate grade	8
I - Master grade	7
II - Bachelor grade	6
III	5
IV	4
V	3
Not applicable	2
Not applicable	1

Sites

www.vae.gouv.fr

www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr/

<http://www.centre-inffo.fr>

<http://www.cpnefanimation.fr/>