

ANALYSIS ABOUT EXISTING STRUCTURE OF FORMAL NON FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING AND THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE ACCREDITATION OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN SPAIN

2013-1-FR1-LEO05-48134 AGROSKILLS

Transferring methods for validation of informal learning to VET institutions in the field of sustainable agriculture

Term/ Acronym/ Abbreviation	Description
Formal learning	Learning that occurs in an organised and structured context (in a school/training centre or on the job) and is explicitly designated as learning (in terms of objectives, time or learning support). Formal learning is intentional from the learner's point of view. It typically leads to certification.
Non-formal learning	Learning which is embedded in planned activities not explicitly designated as learning (in terms of learning objectives, learning time or learning support), but which contain an important learning element. Non-formal learning is intentional from the learner's point of view. It typically does not lead to certification.
Informal learning	Learning resulting from daily work-related, family or leisure activities. It is not organised or structured (in terms of objectives, time or learning support). Informal learning is in most cases unintentional from the learner's perspective. It typically does not lead to certification.
Learning outcome(s)	the set of knowledge, skills and/or competences an individual acquired and/or is able to demonstrate after completion of a learning process.
Competence	ability to apply knowledge, know-how and skills in a habitual and/or changing work situation.
Prior learning	the knowledge, know-how and/ or competences acquired through previously unrecognised training or experience
Assessment	the sum of methods and processes used to evaluate the attainments (knowledge, know-how and/or competences) of an individual, and typically leading to certification.
Certification	the process of formally validating knowledge, know-how and/or competences acquired by an individual, following a standard assessment procedure. Certificates or diplomas are issued by accredited awarding bodies.
Validation (of informal /non-formal learning)	the process of assessing and recognising a wide range of knowledge, know-how, skills and competences which people develop throughout their lives in different contexts, for example through education, work and leisure activities.
Validation of learning outcomes:	Confirmation by a competent body that learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and/or competences) acquired by an individual in a formal, non-formal or informal setting have been assessed against predefined criteria and are compliant with the requirements of a validation standard. Validation typically leads to certification. Source: Cedefop, 2008c.
Accreditation of prior learning (APL)	See validation of informal / non-formal learning

Source: CEDEFOP Validation Inventory

1. Analysis per country of the current situation of non-formal, informal, and formal learning in agriculture

During last meeting it was agreed in focusing the project in the level 3-4 of qualification of the European Qualification Framework. The University and centres of high education level will be treated very briefly in this report.

1.1 Formal learning

About the university formation in Austria, the main difference is to be shown between public universities, private universities and universities of applied sciences. Most of these are controlled by the federal ministry of science, research and economy

In Austria, the formal learning on university level for agricultural topics is mostly offered by BOKU, the university of natural resources and life sciences Vienna.

Additionally in Austria there are technical and vocational schools and higher vocational colleges in upper secondary education in Austria. These cover a variety of topics with 3-4 year courses with a final exam (Abschlussprüfung) that enable to professional qualifications (parallel to the german Fachschule/Handelsschule).

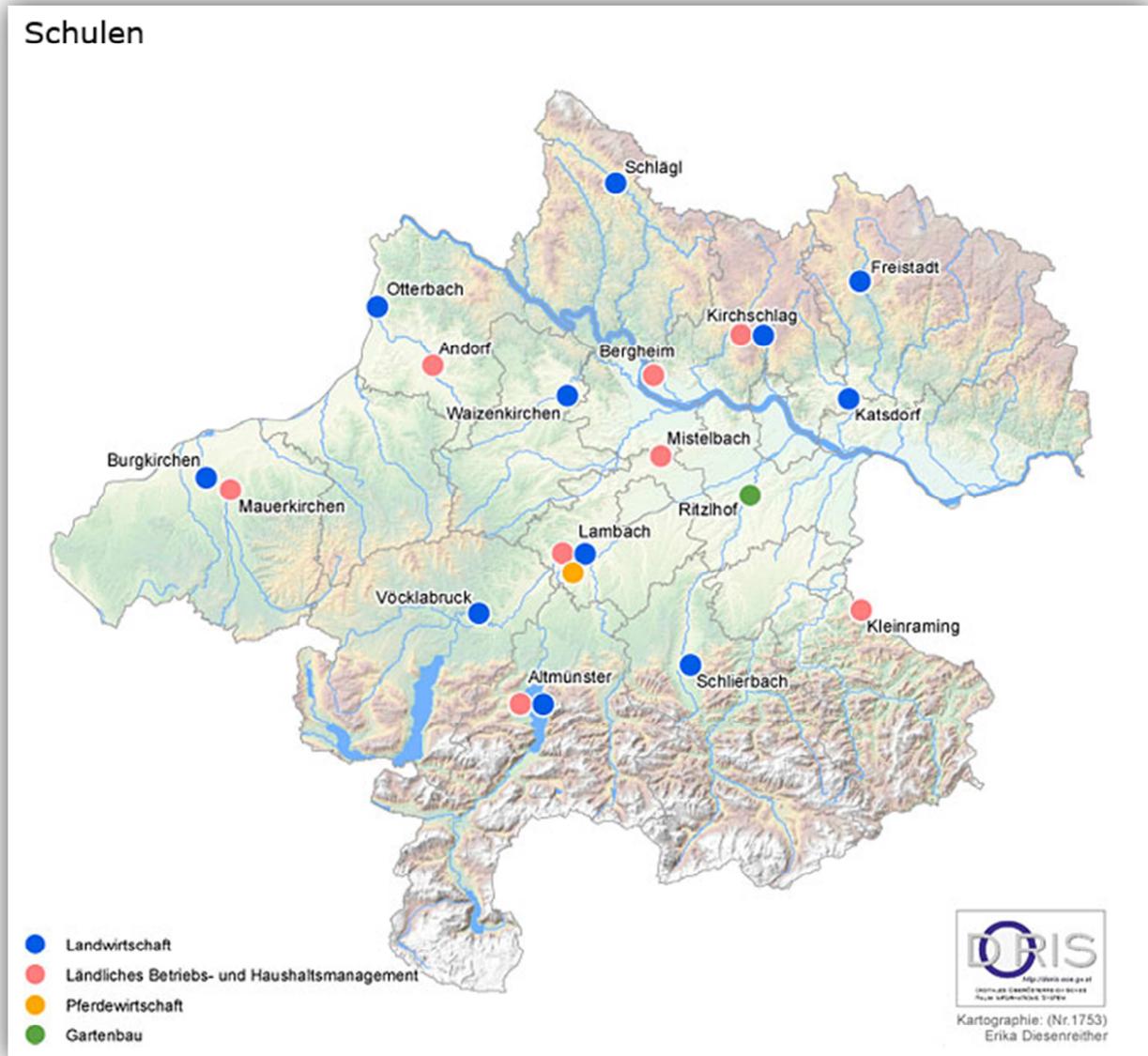
1.1.1. Austrian centres that teach Vocational Training Cycle related with agro-ecology and sustainable agriculture

Then, it be cited the centres that offer this training (12 centres). In parentheses is the town in which are:

- Colleges of Agriculture and Forestry:
 - o Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft Kematen, (Tirol)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Landwirtschaft Ursprung/Elixhausen (Salzburg)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft Linz (Oberösterreich)
 - o Höhere Landwirtschaftliche Bundeslehranstalt St. Florian (Oberösterreich)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehr- und Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft Raumberg-Gumpenstein (Steiermark)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Forstwirtschaft Bruck/Mur (Steiermark)
 - o Private Höhere Lehranstalt für Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft (Steiermark)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft Pitzelstätten (Kärnten)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehr- und Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Landtechnik und Lebensmitteltechnologie (Niederösterreich)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft Sitzenberg (Niederösterreich)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehranstalt und Bundesamt für Wein- und Obstbau Klosterneuburg (Niederösterreich)
 - o Höhere Bundeslehr- und Versuchsanstalt für Gartenbau Schönbrunn (Wien)

Additional to these every region in Austria has a variety of different educational centres focussing on different topics and age/education levels in the agricultural sector.

e.g. in upper Austria (www.ooe-landwirtschaftsschulen.at) :



- Altmünster, lbfs-altmuenster.post@ooe.gv.at
- Andorf, lbfs-andorf.post@ooe.gv.at
- Bergheim , lbfs-bergheim.post@ooe.gv.at
- Burgkirchen, lbfs-burgkirche.post@ooe.gv.at
- Freistadt, lbfs-freistadt.post@ooe.gv.at
- Katsdorf, lbfs-katsdorf.post@ooe.gv.at
- Kirchschiag, lbfs-Kirchschiag.post@ooe.gv.at
- Kleinraming, lbfs-kleinraming.post@ooe.gv.at
- Lambach, lbfs-lambach.post@ooe.gv.at
- Mauerkirchen, lbfs-mauerkirchen.post@ooe.gv.at

- Mistelbach, lbfs-mistelbach.post@ooe.gv.at
- Otterbach, lbfs-otterbach.post@ooe.gv.at
- Ritzlhof, lbfs-ritzlhof.post@ooe.gv.at
- Schlägl, info@bioschule.at
- Schlierbach, lbfs-schlierbach.post@ooe.gv.at
- Vöcklabruck lbfs-voecklabruck.post@ooe.gv.at
- Waizenkirchen, lbfs-waizenkirchen.post@ooe.gv.at

The same can be found in other regions of Austria (e.g. lower Austria

<http://www.noe.gv.at/Bildung/Kindergaerten-Schulen/Landwirtschaftliche-Schulen.html>)

Additionally there are some training centers and schools that specialised in bio/sustainable topics of agricultural aspect (e.g. http://www.bio-austria.at/schulen/bio_fuer_die_schule/landwirtschaftliche_schulen).

1.2 Nonformal and informal Learning

According to the Austrian 2020 Strategie (LLL:2020 2011, 46) nonformal and informal learning will be introduced 2015 in Austria. Since autumn 2012 a structured Concept is being worked on and a process model with respect on qualifications.

Even as the progress of the learning process is planned for 2015, a lot of work on the minds of focus groups outside of the EQF expert groups (HR manager, training provider,..) will be needed.

Now several further education programmes are offered by different organisations, often those courses are very specific with narrow topics (e.g. biological agriculture) and not specifically concentrating on sustainable agriculture

- Bildungswerkstatt Mold <http://www.bildungswerkstatt-mold.at/de/kursprogramm.html>
- LFS Edelfhof <http://www.lfs-edelfhof.ac.at/de/ausbildung/kurse/kursangebot/>
- Landwirtschaftsschule Schlierbach
http://www.landwirtschaftsschule.at/index.php?id=schule_allgemein

2. Accreditation of prior learning and/or previous experience

2.1 National perspective on validation

2.1.1 Description of system of validation

The validation for agricultural qualifications gained outside of Austria as well as informal competences are assigned to the following institutions BMLFUW, BOKU, the university of natural resources and life sciences Vienna and provincial government.

This validation is linked to different setups and structures, EQF, Bologna Process, Copenhagen Process, ECVET/ECTS, Europass&Diploma Supplement, European professional card.

2.1.2 Links with existing national qualification framework and standards used for validation

In Austria, the existing framework of qualifications is collected in the National coordination point for NQF at the national agency for lifelong learning. The Austrian EQF referencing report gives a short overview about the state of the art of this process in Austria:

http://www.lebenslanges-lernen.at/home/national_agency_for_lifelong_learning/national_coordination_point_for_nqf/austrian_eqf_referencingreport/EN/

At the Moment an initiative from OEAD is recognised and is working on Austrian reference point for quality assurance in vocational education and training.

- stands for Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training
- is a network node in the European EQARF network
- is responsible for cross-linking the actors and institutions concerned with vocational education and training in Austria
- understands itself as a contact point and a service institution for all questions related to quality in vocational education and training
- organizes the yearly quality network conference

Further information about us and our work: www.arqa-vet.at.

2.1.3 ECVET validation and accreditation in Austria

The validation and accreditation of learning outcomes and competences according to the European ECVET system is currently under progress and planned to be established 2014-2016 (strategy paper ECVET Austria

http://www.bildung.erasmusplus.at/fileadmin/III/dateien/lebenslanges_lernen_pdf_word_xls/leonardo/ecvet/2014-04-07_strategiepapier_ecvet_in_at_final.pdf)

2.1.4 Formal validation and accreditation in Austria

The validation and accreditation of universities of applied sciences, private universities and higher education institutions and studies is organized by the AQ (Agency for quality assurance and accreditation Austria <https://www.aq.ac.at/en/index.php>). The AQ is a member of ENQA (European association for quality assurance in higher education) is empowered by the ministry of education.

2.2. Certification in Austria

Certification in Austria is varied by different fields. In the food sector one of the leading institutions is TÜV Austria (ISO 22000, IFS, IFS Logistics,..), while others provide Training and Certification (e.g. Quality Austria with environmental as well as energy management). The difference quite often is the certificate as some of those are international recognised, while others are participation certificates that are hard to compare with similar ones in other trainings/regions/countries.

In Austria there is a number of officially accepted organisations able to certify according to 834/2007 , that provide the official EU-wide Logo.



2.2.1 Lacon

Lacon (<http://www.lacon-institut.com/Pages/en/Standards/Biostandards/BIO-Landwirtschaft/BIO-Landwirtschaft.aspx>) carry out auditions for organic farming. It is aimed at agronomists, farmers, bee-keepers, horticulturalists, wine-growers, fish-breeders and orchard farmers. This certificate is regulated by Commission regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and the accompanying guidelines of Commission regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

2.2.2 BIOS

Bios is an officially recognised certification-body in all regions of Austria, which certifies biological farming as well as genetic free products and production. The regulations here are supported by additional regulations of different agricultural associations and companies (e.g. BIO Austria, Demeter,...).

2.2.3 Austria Bio Garantie

Since 1998 Austria Bio Garantie has been accredited as certification body for organic products according to ISO 17065. The range of accreditation is inspected continuously. Austria Bio Garantie inspects and may also certify companies' compliance with following regulations:

- Council regulation 834/2007 for organic production and labelling
- Austrian Codex Alimentarius (chapter A8)
- Austrian Codex directive for definition of "non genetically modified production" of foods and feed and its labeling

2.2.4 BIKO Tirol

BIKO Tirol was founded for controlling and certification of biological agriculture. Additionally today also genetic free milk, AMA, Quality Tirol and ggA/gU specifications are validated and certified.

2.2.4 LVA

The LVA is a partner of ISACert and thereby a part of this international company for supplier audits in the food and packaging industries..

2.2.5 SGS

SGS is a global working company that offers a variety of trainings, services and certifications:

- Certification – Implementation of environmental management systems (Agriculture and food)
- Chain-to-custody Certification for wooden products
- Forest management certification

- Forest Product Chain-to-custody certification
- Full outturn guarantee
- Full outturn quality
- Global G.A.P.
- IFS Food certification
- ISO 14001:2004 – environmental management systems
- Organic certification
- and many more...

2.2.6 SLK

SLK is a non-profit company that ensures standards and quality in its field of controlling and certification. The different fields cover biological agriculture, gene technique free production, standards of plant products, nature and environment as well as hygiene and food standards.

2.2.7 GfRs

As a part of Quavera alliance, GfRs tries to base its certifications on an international harmonized certification system. GfRs certifies different fields:

- Ecological agriculture and ecological viticulture
- Trade and manufacturing of ecological products
- Import of ecological products
- Ecological gastronomy
- Global G.A.P.
- Stop climate change

Bibliography

- PIN – Recognition of informal and non-formal learning in Austria, http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/6584/prd/10/2/PIN_Brochure_AT.pdf
- Biffel, Gudrun / Pfeffer, Thomas (2013) Recognition of qualifications of citizens of another EU Member State. Background paper for the conference “Europe on the move – Participation and Integration of EU-citizens”, organized by the Federal Ministry of Interior (b:mi), 7-8 May 2013, Vienna. <http://www.integration.at/media/files/konferenz/Sammelmappe3.pdf>
- Biffel, Gudrun, Pfeffer, Thomas, Skrivanek, Isabella (2012) Anerkennung ausländischer Qualifikationen und informeller Kompetenzen in Österreich. Studie im Auftrag des BMI. Donau-Universität Krems, Department für Migration und Globalisierung. <http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/imperia/md/content/departement/migrationglobalisierung/forschung/biffelanerkennung-validierung-2012.pdf>
- Pfeffer, Thomas (2014), „Anerkennung von Qualifikationen und non-formalen Kompetenzen in Österreich“, http://www.bildung.erasmusplus.at/fileadmin/III_erasmus/dateien/hochschule/Bologna/keynote_pfeffer.pdf
-

Links are in German/English