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Germany

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Bertelsmann Foundation

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Target group
 Teacher / trainer
 Counsellor
 Social worker
 Youth worker
 future employer
 other:

Type of best practice
 initiative
 campaign
 project
 website only
 programme
 model
 training
 learning material
 other: study

Experiences
 available for more than 5 years
 available for less than 5 years
 pilot phase / testing
 in development
 other: n.a.

politicians, policies
developers

Summary:

In Germany – as in other European countries – discussions are taking place about how vocationally relevant practical knowledge can be better identified and certified. Up until now, it has been mainly formal training courses which have opened up opportunities in the education system and on the labour market. By contrast, competences acquired informally in work or leisure time or in further education without receiving a formal qualification have carried less significance, despite often being more beneficial to one’s vocational competence than formally certified knowledge. This study ("Recognition of non-formal and informal learning in Germany") is an outcome of the Bertelsmann Foundation's "Continuing Education for All" project. The project aims to provide an education system that is also accessible to people with low formal qualifications.



Description:

In the study, national experts of seven European countries provided an overview of the current state of the aspects in recognition of non-formal and informal learning. Based on this, they used case studies to illustrate just how recognition systems have proven to be successful in those countries. The experiences of the other countries could provide Germany with guidance and targeted transfer impetus as it seeks to introduce recognition procedures of its own. The latter was also covered in the study. The main test criteria for a recognition system in Germany were:

1. the degree of legal binding force of the validation procedures,
2. acceptance of certificates in the education and employment system,
3. awareness of recognition possibilities (not only) for formally low-qualified persons and easy access.