

Informal and non-formal learning

Infosheet

The requirements for educating young people are constantly increasing. As well as good performance in school and specialist knowledge, the labour market also requires strong social skills and self-competence. Children and young people can obtain these skills in school, during professional training and within the framework of children and youth work through informal and non-formal learning.

- Informal learning takes place in everyday life, in the workplace (apprenticeship, practical training), within the family, through volunteering or during leisure activities.
- Non-formal learning occurs while participating in educational activities such as further training or continuing education.

The diversity of activities and services offered by children and youth work is an important part of individual educational and career records. The aim here is to improve equality of opportunity and social integration of disadvantaged groups.

The “Strategy on Lifelong Learning – LLL:2020” in Austria (2011) and the recommendation of the Council of the European Union on the “validation of non-formal and informal learning” (2012) describe significant impulses for the employability of young people.

The Federal Act on the National Qualification Framework (NQR Act), which entered into force on 15 March 2016, aims to ensure comprehensive comparability of qualifications from the various national qualification systems and learning contexts (formal, non-formal, informal) using learning outcomes. The aim is to “translate” between the various levels and areas of the national qualification systems and therefore ensure clarity and comprehensibility about the various educational qualifications. This will support connectivity, mobility and recognition between educational sectors and institutions at a national level.

In order to achieve a greater level of awareness of the value of skills obtained in an informal or non-formal environment as a key addition to formal education, the Federal Chancellery is working with specialists in a targeted manner to develop measures taking into account the National Qualification Framework (NQR).

- WIK:I (what I can do through informal learning) is a low-threshold model on making basic and key skills which were informally obtained by young people and young adults visible and recognised.
- In Austria and South Tyrol, "aufZAQ" certifies non-formal education and training courses for people active in youth work.

Further information

- Publication "Strategy on Lifelong Learning – LLL:2020" in Austria (2011, in German only)
www.qualifikationsregister.at/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Strategie1.pdf
- Federal Law on the National Qualification Framework (in German only)
www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20009496
- Recommendation of the Council of the European Union on the "validation of non-formal and informal learning" (2012)
eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32012H1222(01)&from=DE
- aufZAQ – certified quality of non-formal education in youth work www.aufzaq.at/english/
- WIK:I – what I can achieve through informal learning www.women-families-youth.bka.gv.at/youth/co-determination-participation/wiki.html

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The task of the Youth Competence Centre is to implement and coordinate the Austrian Youth Strategy and provide data and facts on youth policy and youth work. Among other ways, this is done in the form of infosheets as short and concise overviews of individual topics.

If you have any suggestions about the infosheets, please contact jugendstrategie@bka.gv.at