



Steps to modernize International Qualifications: Validation of non-formal and informal learning

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International Qualifications

“international qualification means a qualification awarded by a legally established international body (association, organization, sector or company) or by a national body acting on behalf of an international body that is used in more than one country and that includes learning outcomes assessed with reference to standards established by an international body.”

(Source: COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 22 May 2017 on the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and repealing the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning)



Validation of non-formal and informal learning

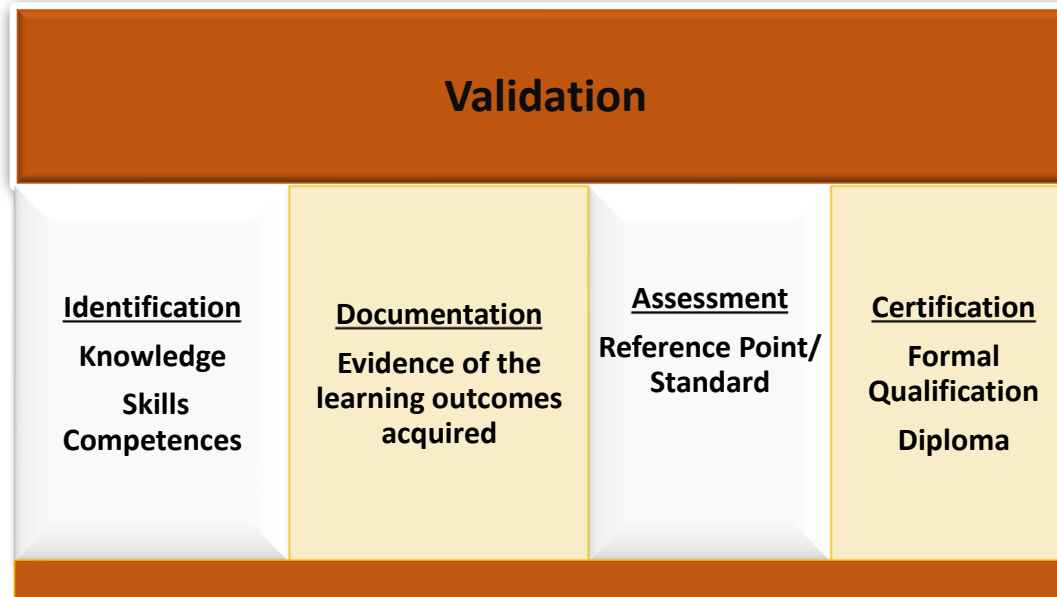


“validation of non-formal and informal learning means the process of confirmation by a competent authority that an individual has acquired learning outcomes acquired in non-formal and informal learning settings measured against a relevant standard and consists of the following four distinct phases: identification through dialogue of particular experiences of an individual, documentation to make visible the individual's experiences, a formal assessment of those experiences and certification of the results of the assessment which may lead to a partial or full qualification”

(Source: COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 22 May 2017 on the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and repealing the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning)

Validation of non-formal and informal learning

The process of validation has four stages:



(Source: COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning)



International Qualifications and Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL)



International
Qualifications

VNFIL

How do these two concepts match?



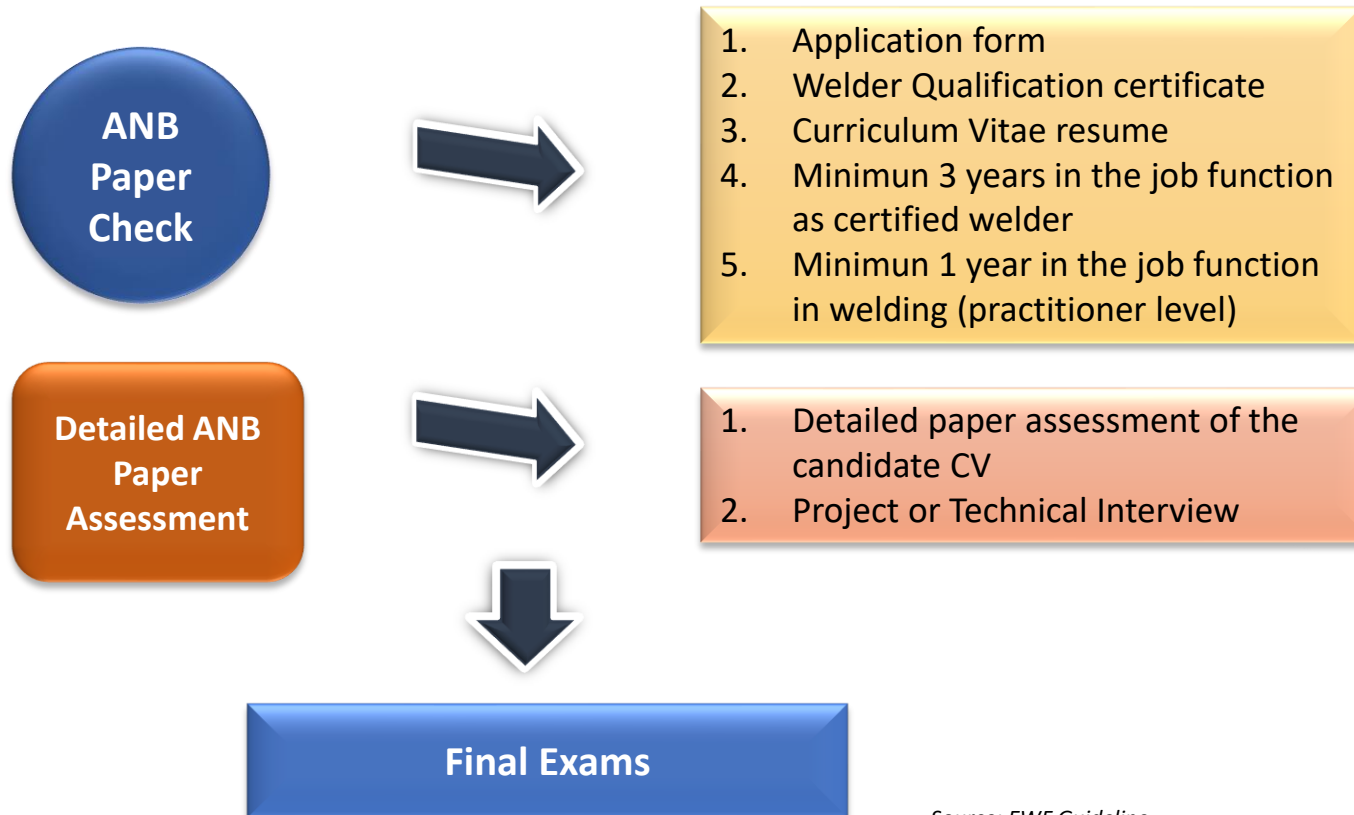
International Qualifications and Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL)



- Most of the International Qualifications don't include VNFIL as a way to obtain a certification
- EWF has the **Alternative Route**

EWF Alternative Route

International Welding Practitioner (IWP)

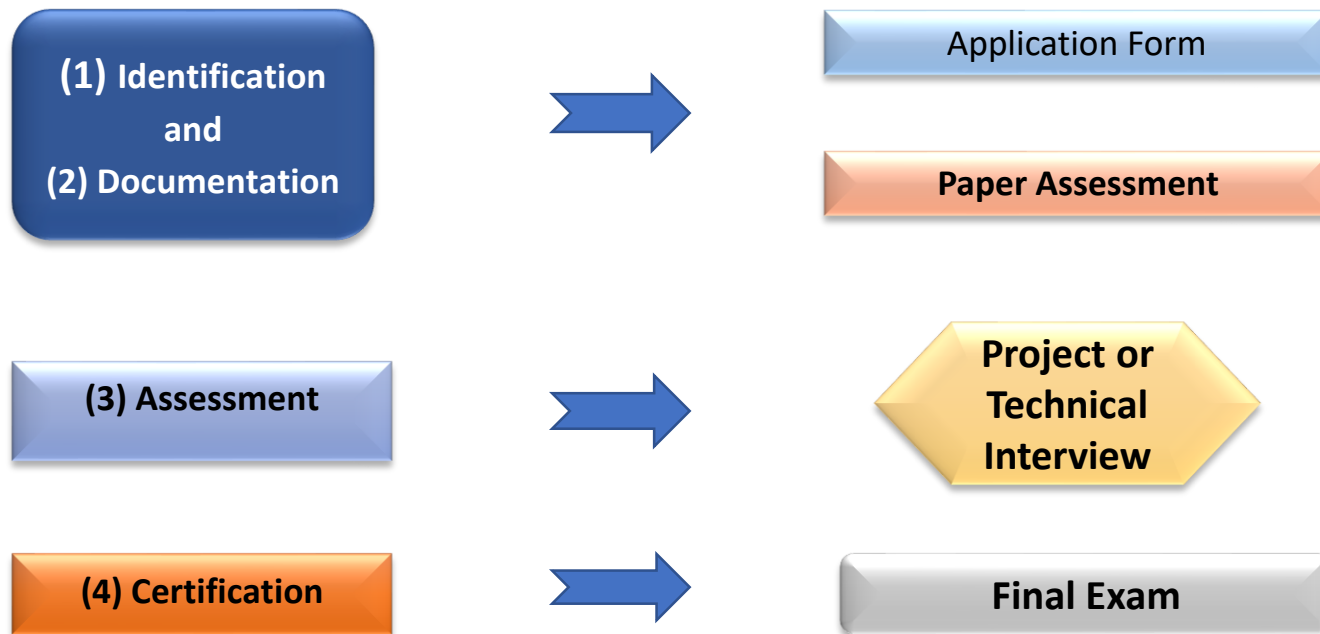


Source: EWF Guideline



VNFIL vs.

EFW Alternative Route





International Qualifications and Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL)



International
Qualifications

VNFIL

What is the added value and challenges of VNFIL in International Qualifications?



What is the added value of VNFIL in International Qualifications?



- Validation of knowledge, skills and competences which have been acquired through non-formal and informal learning
- It can accelerate the process of achieving qualifications through the validation
- Enhance employability (potential access to jobs or fields of employment) – improve the functioning of the labour market
- Enhance mobility of workers
- Increase motivation for lifelong learning (progression opportunities for further learning; increase self-esteem; plan career development; identify areas of competence and areas requiring further study)
- Promote the involvement of the (the same or other) stakeholders
- Allow the standardization of validation procedures (following the same elements in arrangements for the VNFIL – validation phases) – give more transparency to the process



What are (some of) the challenges of VNFIL in what relates to International Qualifications?

**Valuing
VNFIL**

- Strengthen the trust and credibility of VNFIL (social recognition, not a “second” route, ...)
- Strengthen the value and currency of validation by referring to the same or equivalent standards as those used for formal education

**Validation
procedures**

- Introduction of “new” elements in arrangements for VNFIL (e.g.: identification – guidance; documentation – portfolio; assessment)
- Validation as a process and not only as a certification

**Support to
individuals**

- Put in place guidance and counselling measures to support the implementation of validation arrangements



What are (some of) the challenges of VNFIL in what relates to International Qualifications?



Capacity building

- Development of staff involved in validation processes (e.g.: as guidance counsellor) – professional competences of validation practitioners

Stakeholders involvement

- Involvement in all the stages
- Involvement between stakeholders in the education, training, employment and other sectors (open to civil society)



What are (some of) the challenges of VNFIL in what relates to International Qualifications?

Quality assurance

- To put quality assurance mechanism to ensure the trust in validation processes (transparent documented procedures should be established for the development of qualifications, for the assessment of learners, for the maintenance of the qualification and information to learners)

Link and coherence with NQS and NQF

- Articulation between international qualifications and NQS (these certificates are highly specialised and may not always be seen as relevant for inclusion in the system)
- Alignment between international qualifications and NQF (importance of communication; use of LO in describing qualifications; assessment of achieved learning outcomes; relevance of qualifications to be included in NQFs; quality assurance of qualifications)



Thank you for your attention!

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