



VALIDATION AND CERTIFICATION OF INFORMAL AND NON-FORMAL LEARNING IN CROATIA



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Validation and certification of informal and non-formal learning in Croatia

Article 1 of the Adult Education Act states:

(1) Adult education takes place as formal, non-formal and informal learning.

(2) Non-formal adult education for the acquisition of competencies required for the purposes of this Act includes the implementation of non-formal education programs financed through vouchers from the European Structural and Investment Funds and recovery and resilience mechanisms in line with occupational standards or Register of the Croatian Qualifications Framework.

(5) Non-formal adult education for the acquisition of competencies required for work in the sense of this Act includes the implementation of non-formal education programs to which the provisions of the law governing the labor market apply.

(9) Non-formal education for the acquisition of competencies necessary for work in addition to the institutions that have a registered adult education activity in accordance with the provisions of the law governing the establishment and organization of institutions may be conducted by legal and physical persons in accordance with the law governing the labor market.

For participants who need retraining and advanced training, the recognition of theoretical knowledge is carried out on the basis of previously acquired certificates, which enables the continuation of education.

Adult education participants can also demonstrate their practical skills acquired through work, thus shortening education time and speeding up access to the labour market. In training programs without attending practical classes and exercises, the acquired knowledge can be practically tested before a three-member committee of the institution. The Ministry has adopted a curriculum for the acquisition of basic digital and mathematical skills and reading skills in which learning outcomes are clearly described. Based on this, adult education institutions can assess entry skills as well as evaluate acquired learning outcomes.

Systematic recognition of previously acquired knowledge is directly related to the implementation of the Croatian Qualifications Framework. According to this framework, learning outcomes for each level must be clearly defined in order to be recognized outside the educational process. The Law on the Croatian Qualifications Framework, adopted in 2013, states that there should be authorized institutions for the evaluation of sets of learning outcomes and to award certificates on acquired sets of learning outcomes. These are institutions that are authorized to award qualifications. The procedure is valid only up to the 5th level of the Croatian Qualifications Framework, which is identical to the 5th level of the European Qualifications Framework.

The key to the implementation of this recognition is the rulebook on the recognition and evaluation of prior learning, which should be adopted by the Minister responsible for education and science. A comprehensive system for the recognition of knowledge and skills acquired through non-formal education and non-formal learning was supposed to be established after the adoption of the new law on adult education. The law was adopted in 2021. This was supposed to be followed by the adoption of a rulebook, which should specify the implementation procedure.

References:

Adult Education Act. Available at: https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2021_12_144_2460.html [Accessed June 2, 2022].

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