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Equal class

ENGINEERS QUALIFIED IN HIGHER NON-UNIVERSITY VET INSTITUTIONS – PROVIDING ARGUMENTS AND EVIDENCE FOR NQF/EQF CLASSIFICATION

3s

Lifelong Learning Programme

bm:uk

BACKGROUND

Transparency and comparability of qualifications are important prerequisites for the establishment of a common EU labour market. The EU is addressing this issue through the development of a number of different transparency instruments, such as the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

Discussion on the classification of qualifications that are considered to be similar among EU countries is particularly important in order to avoid discrepancies and misunderstanding. In many countries, engineering qualifications are offered at higher levels in non-university VET institutions, and there is some debate on how these Qualifications can be allocated to the appropriate National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and EQF levels.

Another issue is how learning outcomes acquired in the workplace can be taken into account, as the acquisition of professional experience is rarely considered in the NQF classification process.

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AIMS

EQUAL-CLASS aims to study qualifications in the field of mechatronics, electrical engineering/electronics that can be obtained in higher non-university VET institutions or comparable institutions in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Lithuania, and Portugal.

The qualifications will be examined from three different perspectives: curricula, students and graduates. Additionally, the project will investigate to what extent professional experience gained following the completion of a relevant qualification, and the recognition of non-formal/informal learning, enables individuals to achieve another - higher - qualification level in relation to the EQF/NQF.

DURATION OF THE PROJECT 10/2012 - 09/2014

FUNDING

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TARGET GROUP

EQUAL-CLASS studies engineering qualifications provided at higher non-university VET or comparable institutions. Target groups include national authorities responsible for qualifications in the field of mechatronics, electrical engineering/electronics, qualifications experts, EQF/NQF experts, teachers, students, professional associations, and education policy makers.

MAIN RESULTS WILL BE:

COMPARISON OF QUALIFICATIONS
in the field of mechatronics, electrical engineering/ electronics regarding their learning outcomes in the NQFs/EQF based on the methodology developed in the 'ZOOM' project.

FURTHER ELABORATED 'ZOOM' METHODOLOGY
for objective & unambiguous description of qualifications with regard to EQF/NQF.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 'REMOTE LABS'
i.e. online laboratories to remotely conduct real experiments, in order to assess students' 'real life' skills and competences.

GRADUATE SURVEY
and comparison of graduates' occupations and positions in the labour market.

SCENARIOS/RECOMMENDATIONS
for taking relevant professional experience into account through validation and recognition of non-formal/informal learning (competences).