

Informal and non-formal learning

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

- Formal learning takes place in organised and structured contexts such as schools, universities, vocational schools and further education programmes. It usually results in the attainment of officially recognised certifications or qualifications.
- 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 biographies. In this way, equal opportunities and social integration of people with fewer opportunities should be strengthened.

The Federal Act on the National Qualification Framework (NQR Act), which came into force on 15 March 2016, aims to ensure the 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 national level.

In order to raise awareness of the value of skills obtained in an informal or non-formal environment as a key addition to formal education, the ‘aufZAQ certification’ confirms the high quality of non-formal education and training courses for people active in youth work.

The Competence Framework for Youth Work forms the basis for aufZAQ certification and also serves as a tool for transferring qualifications in youth work to the Austrian National Qualification Framework (NQF).

Further information

- Federal Law on the National Qualification Framework (in German only)
www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20009496
- aufZAQ – certified quality of non-formal education in youth work www.aufzaq.at/english/
- The aufZAQ Competence Framework www.aufzaq.at/english/#framework

Imprint

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Youth Newsletter: www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/jugend/newsletter/newsletter-anmeldung.html

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