

Validation of prior learning

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About IÐAN



IÐAN fræðslusetur

Current operations

- 25 full members of staff
 - Approximately 300 on payroll or working as sub-contractors
- Headquarters Vatnagarðar since 2014
- Website: www.idan.is; e-mail idan@idan.is
- IÐAN was founded in 2006 with the merging of sectorial training centres for professional development.



IDAN is a NON PROFIT - private Educational centre supported by the Confederation of Employers and Employees in Industry and Service

- **Unions of Icelandic skilled Workers**
 - Union of Icelandic Graphic Workers (FBM)
 - Union of Icelandic Hotel, culinary and Food workers (MATVÍS)
 - Federation of Skilled Construction and Industrial Workers (Samidn)
 - The Icelandic Union of Marine Engineers and Metal Technicians (VM)
- **Federations of Icelandic Industries**
 - Federation of Icelandic Industries (SI)
 - Icelandic Travel Industry Association (SAF)
 - The Icelandic federation for motor trades and repair (BGS)
 - The Association of Certificated Master Craftsmen

IÐANs five main tasks

- **Continues Professional development** for craft and trade professionals
 - *Adult Education Act 2010/27*
 - *Authorized training centre – Awarded by the Directorate of Education.*
- **Service contract with the Directorate of Education**
 - apprenticeship contracts (*reform*)
 - journeyman's examinations
 - recognition of professional qualifications and work experience from abroad in licensed crafts and trades
 - *Laws and regulation – Audit by the Icelandic National Audit office.*

IÐANs five main task and Quality assurance measures in our daily practice

- **Validation of prior learning towards**
 - *standards in state approved curriculum, defined job standards, transversal skills*
 - *Laws and regulations - **Adult Education Act 2010/27***
- **Research and development**
 - *Erasmus+, EEA Grants, Nordic ministry council, NVL, National projects...*
- **Enhance the image of crafts and trades**
 - *European projects, Nordic projects, PR, collaboration with stakeholders, addressing gender equality, sustainability...National and international competitions such as Euro skills.*

Validation of prior Learning

- Validation of prior Learning since 2007
- 28 trades
- About 3000 participants
- Validation is mainly against standards in formal curriculum, but also pilot projects against job standards



Who can apply?

Admission for validation is to have:

- Reached the age of 23
- Completed 3 years of work experience in the trade

Validation process

**Information
Screening**

Counselling

**Screening
interview with
counselor**

**Portfolio work
Self
assessment**

**Assessment
interview**

**Recognition
and next steps**

School

Counselling after validation

- Each participant gets a feedback on his results
- A connection with the school is made
- Participants then enter the formal school and complete upper-secondary education.
- Participants take the same **Journeyman's examination** as fulltime students.

What we have learned

- Guidance is needed during the validation and afterwards
 - Encouragement, support, information of formal education
- Many in the group tried numerous times to go back to school
- Good cooperation with the formal school system and LLL centres is essential
 - The formal school system refers to IDAN
- Formal schools needed to design and adjust study paths to the groups learning needs
 - More trades offered in evening school/distance learning
 - One school designed special path for academic subjects (mathematics and languages)
- Reached individuals who would not have otherwise sought education

Challenges in VPL

- IDAN would like to see higher percentages of the participants in VPL enter the formal school system
- According to a survey, after the validation, around 60% say they are going to finish their study
- Around 40% finish soon after the validation
- Some of the participants finish some other degrees
- Some of the come back later to finish

Challenges in validation process in times of covid

- The whole process performed in Teams
- Went overall well
- Challenges
 - Assessors - had to change some procedure, for example drawings
 - Migrants - more difficult to translate when working in Teams
 - Lack of computer skills
 - Technical difficulties

New development

- New database for the validation
- Connection from the database in the formal school system
- Easier process
- Better service for those in rural areas