

Welcome Address

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Member of the Executive Board of Bertelsmann Stiftung

3RD  BIENNALE

We are here to shape and agree on the „Berlin Declaration on Validation of Prior Learning“

Policy makers need to:

- Establish effective Validation of Prior Learning (VPL) systems
- Have orientation, i.e. proven points of reference
- Be inspired by global best practices

VPL systems need to:

- Assure credibility of the results
- Grant access for all learners
- Make competences visible/valuable
- Inform and guide candidates
- Guarantee sustainability
- Open up work/educational careers

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Berlin Declaration on Validation of Prior Learning

International benchmark for validation systems worldwide

Systems need to:

- Ensure the credibility of the results
- Provide access for all learners
- Make competences visible/valuable and guide candidates
- Guarantee sustainability
- Support work/educational careers

VPL Biennale is the platform for policy makers, practitioners, researchers



- 1st VPL Biennale 2014 in Rotterdam, EC-VPL, Netherlands
- „The Power of VPL“
- The promise of VPL as the motor of social and economic change



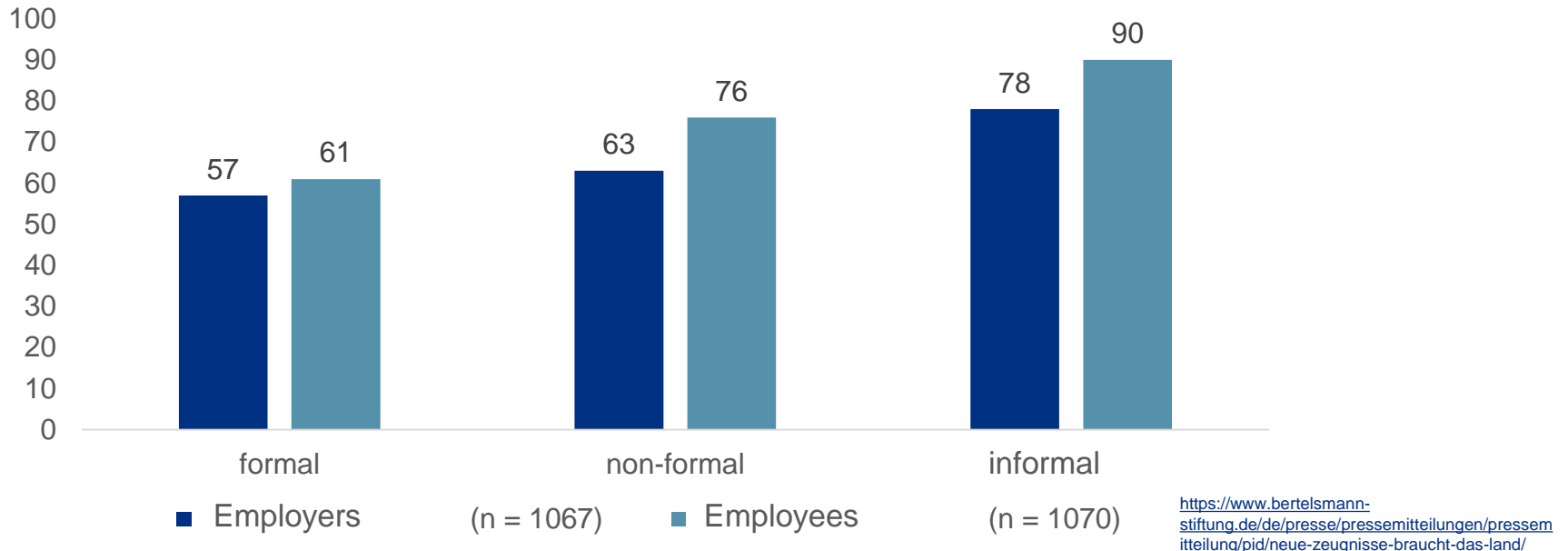
- 2nd VPL Biennale 2017 in Aarhus, VIA University College, Denmark
- „The User at the Centre“
- Validation of Prior Learning strengthens lifelong learning for all



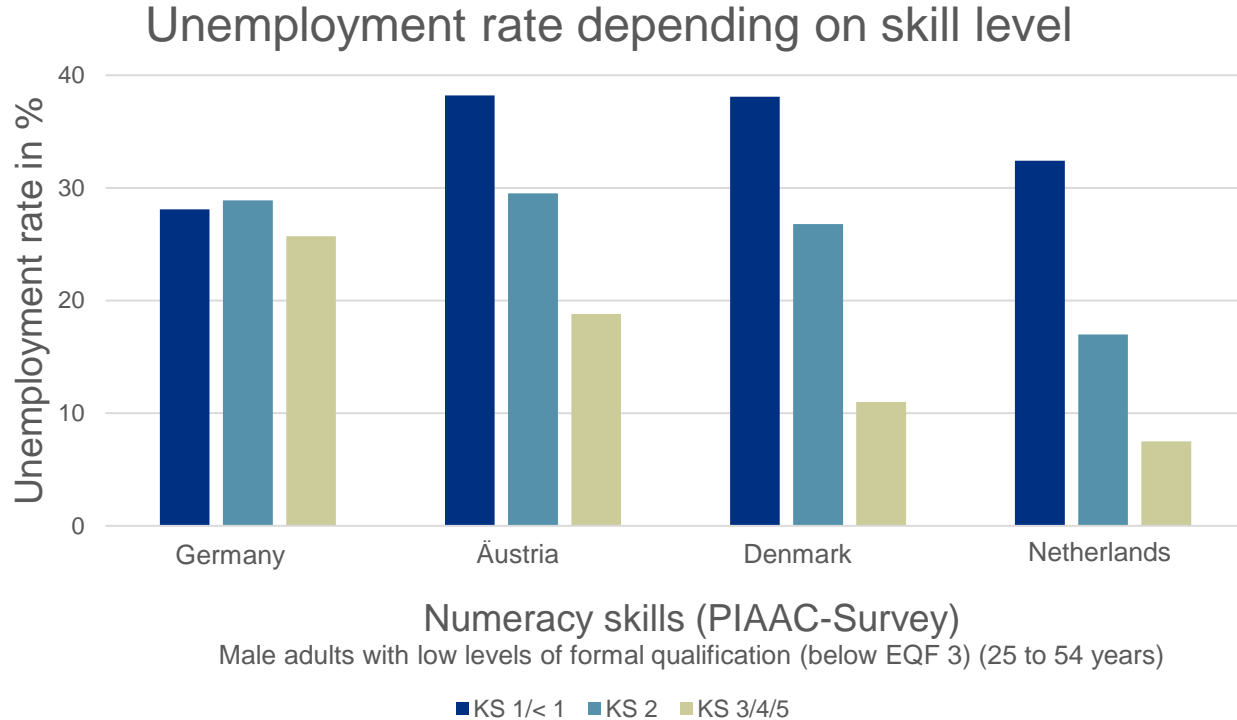
- 3rd VPL Biennale 2019 in Berlin, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany
- „Making Policy Work“
- Goal: Shape and adopt the Berlin Declaration on Validation Prior Learning

In Germany employers and employees agree: Informal and non-formal learning matter most

Relevance of learning pathways for success at work
Percentage of „important“ and „very important“



But do skills really count? – In Germany only when you have a VET or HE degree



A, DK, NL: higher skills pay off, even without a degree

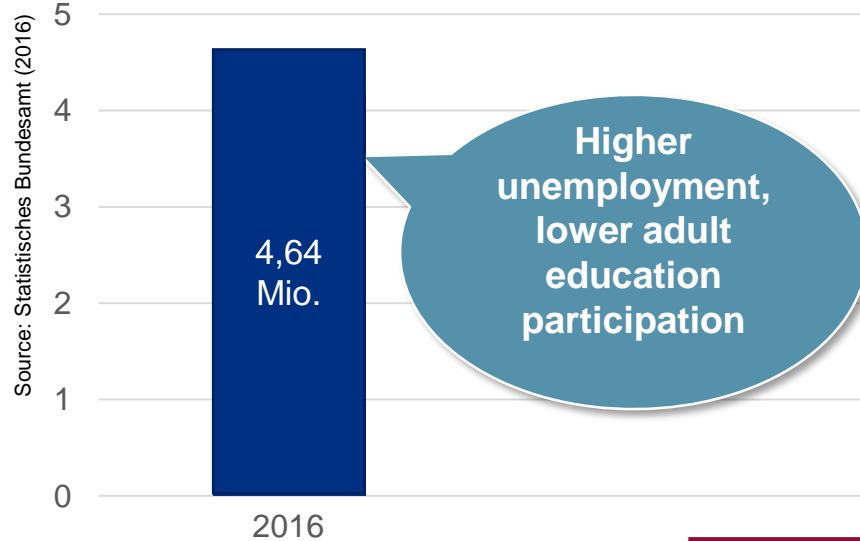
GER: without a degree many skilled people are unemployed

Source: WZBrief Arbeit (2015)

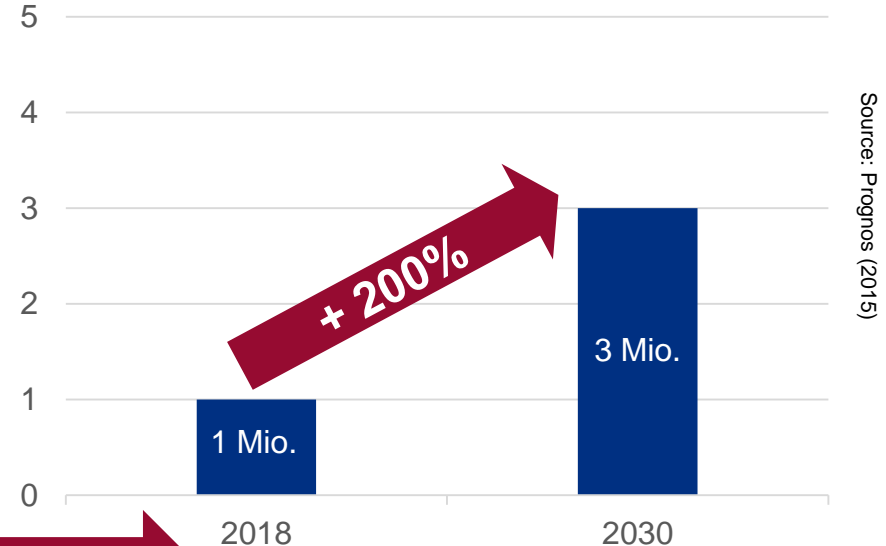
German challenge and opportunity: tapping the potential of the „low skilled“

Mismatch in labour market supply and demand

Millions of formally low qualified (25 – 65 ys)



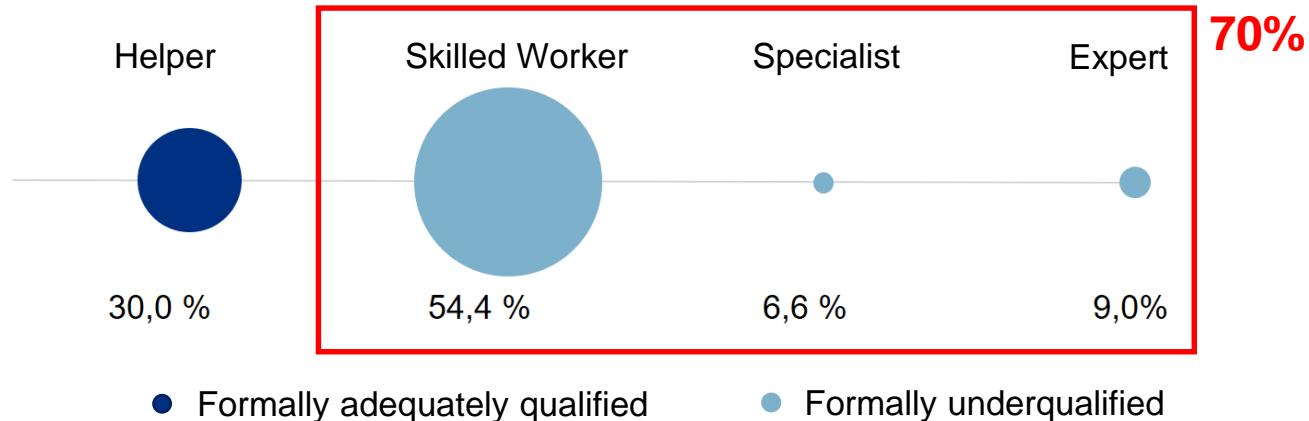
Rising skilled labour shortages (EQF-level 3-5)



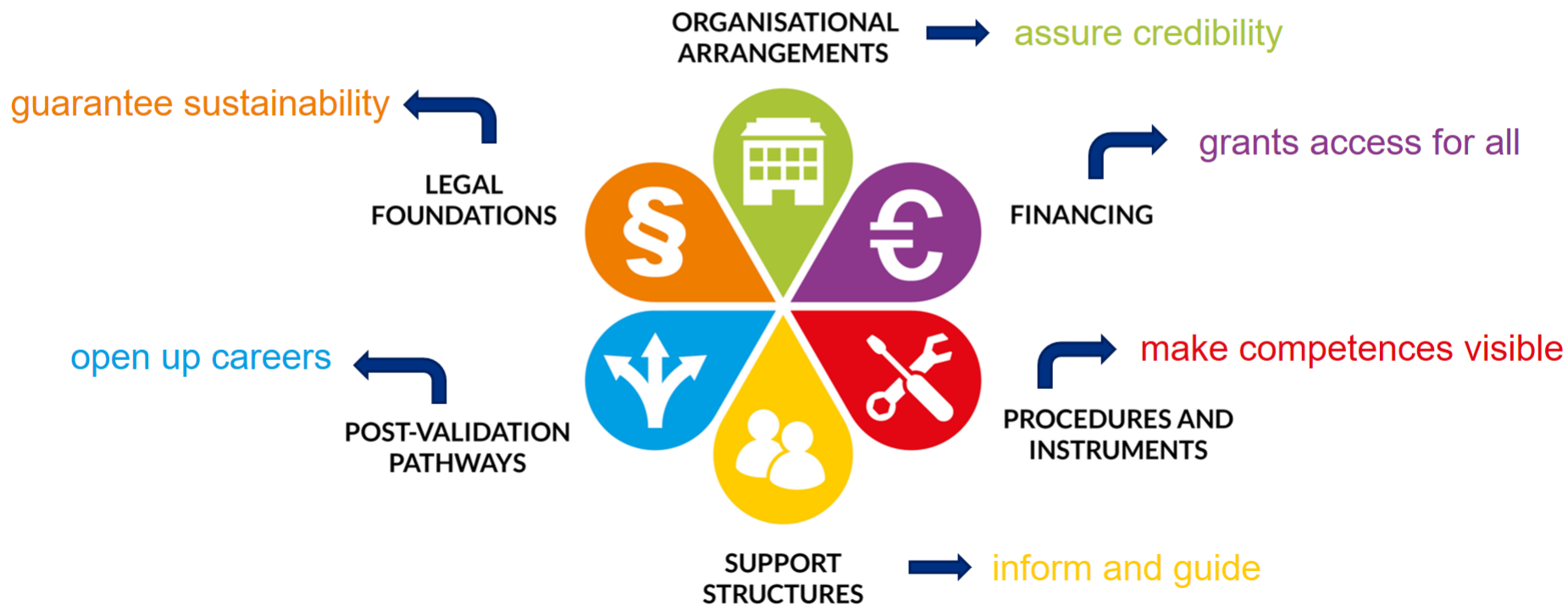
Validation & Training

In Germany 70% of “low skilled” in skilled work. But lack of transparency leads to restricted mobility and income inequality

People without VET or HE degrees work in jobs with qualification level of



Berlin Declaration with 6 policy fields mirrored in 6 conference tracks empowers policy makers to better bridge education and the labour market



Thank you very much for your attention!

And a special thanks to all partners!!

