

DOROTHEA FOHRBECK

Recognition of foreign professional qualifications – the Federal Government's new Recognition Act

Thanks to Germany's new Recognition Act, which entered force on April 1, 2012, standard nationwide procedures and criteria will be available in future for the evaluation of foreign professional qualifications. This will improve the opportunities for people with qualifications obtained in other countries to find employment in the occupation for which they are trained. The article outlines the background to the drafting of the new law, introduces its main regulatory contents, and concludes by noting the next steps that need to be taken in order to implement the Act.

MANUEL SCHANDOCK, FELIX BREMSER

The Recognition Act's contribution to overcoming the shortage of skilled workers

One of the purposes of assessing the equivalence of foreign qualifications with those gained in Germany is to mobilise existing potential to join the skilled workforce. The article shows that skilled migrants offer substantial potential to the German labour market, particularly in relation to skilled-worker shortages. On the other hand, it is found that the split between qualifications regulated nationally by the federal government and those falling under the laws of the individual German Länder is currently leaving part of this potential unrealised.

CLAUDIA MORAVEK

Ways through the jungle of competences**Pre-application information and advisory provision for applicants seeking recognition**

People who want to work in Germany and are therefore trying to have their foreign qualification recognised need a great deal of information on the statutory basis of the recognition procedure, the vocational education and training system and the labour market in Germany. The article points out which challenges arise on the way to submitting an application, and which information and advisory services offer the right support.

ARIANE BADERSCHNEIDER, OTTMAR DÖRING

Recognition guidance and networking within the „Integration through Qualification (IQ)“ programme

Recognition applicants have many questions, both before and during the procedure, and these can be answered by a variety of institutions. But it is not always obvious where particular information and advisory services can be accessed. This article introduces the „Integration through Qualification (IQ)“ support programme, which not only supplies information and advice but also integrates and professionalises existing advice services.

CORINNA MICHALSKI, ILONA RIESEN, BEATRIX STRAUCH

The new Recognition Act – new tasks for the chambers and support from the BQ portal

Since April 1, 2012 third-country nationals as well as EU citizens with qualifications in non-regulated professions now have a legal right to a procedure to assess the equivalence of their qualification. For the competent bodies that are responsible for assessment and recognition procedures in the vocational education sector, this gives rise to additional tasks and challenges. How the BP portal supports them in this is the subject of this article.

BETTINA ENGLMANN

Migrant-ready? The benefit of the Recognition Act for companies

One of the strategies to counter the growing problem of the skilled worker shortage is to employ greater numbers of qualified migrants. The question pursued in this article is how far companies are adapting to this group of employees, and what possibilities are provided by the new Recognition Act to support companies in the recruitment, employment and individual support of qualified skilled workers with a migrant background.

GEORG R. HANF

Links between the German national qualifications framework (DQR) and the Recognition Act

The debate about the German qualifications framework (DQR) lost touch with the fact that its origins lay in the European qualifications framework (EQF) and that its aims and purposes were not merely national. Germany had engaged with the European process in order to improve the mutual comparability of qualifications between the different Member States, and thus to foster the mobility of citizens. The preparation of the Recognition Act took place within the same time frame as the DQR debate, but although they ran in parallel, the two processes were entirely independent of one another. This article attempts to make the connections clear.

HEIKO BURCHERT, CHRISTOF MÜLLER

The success of vocationally qualified students at universities of applied sciences

Empirical studies attest to the fact that university students with prior initial vocational training and workplace experience tend to achieve better success in their studies. So far no such empirical evidence has existed regarding attainment at universities of applied sciences. The article presents the findings of a relevant study conducted in the Business Department of Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences.

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