

Functioning and funding

How accreditation works

The procedure is as follows: autonomous communities will call for applications with a view to accrediting specific professional skills, those interested will be assessed and advised by an evaluator to prepare the requisite documentation and the evaluation phase will then begin. The Evaluation Committee will make the appropriate checks to ensure whether there is sufficient evidence that the candidate has acquired the requisite professional skills and will decide, as appropriate, the type of test which should be proposed, based on the characteristics and skills to be assessed. Finally, the Evaluation Committee will propose accreditation of each of the skills credits that the applicant has successfully acquired.

Participants in the scheme will be awarded “skills credits” which will form part of a Vocational Training Qualification or Professional Certificate. When the procedure has been completed, the appropriate evaluation committee will inform the applicant which further training will be needed to obtain the Vocational Training Qualification or Certificate (this Certificate will provide official accreditation issued by the competent employment authority that applicants have demonstrated sufficient skills in a particular profession or trade, thus improving their employment prospects).

Candidates will need to demonstrate work experience or training. However, it will be possible for those unable to attest to either requirement to apply provisionally. In this case the assessors will look at each case on an individual basis and decide whether or not to admit the applicant.

Funding

The Spanish Government, through the Ministry of Employment and Immigration, has invested EUR 59 million to date, in order to launch the evaluation and accreditation procedure for professional skills acquired through work experience.

Of these EUR 59 million, 35 millions have been invested in training assessors, advisers and guidance counsellors to provide adequate support, along with materials for obtaining professional qualifications through distance learning, disseminating information on the scheme and setting up websites providing information and guidance to participants. The remaining EUR 24 million will be distributed among the autonomous communities to provide funding for their assessment procedures. The criteria for allocating these funds will shortly be approved by the Council of Ministers and will take into account the sectors of the population likely to apply for this scheme in each Autonomous Community.

Accreditation of professional skills was a decision taken as part of the road map for modernising Vocational Training and is jointly promoted by the Ministries of Education and Employment and Immigration.

Both Ministers have underlined that this accreditation process will contribute to the professional development of applicants, as it will provide them with an official document which will enable them to demonstrate their knowledge and aptitude for a particular post. Furthermore, it will provide incentives for people to undertake courses to complete their training as well as provide them with a more accessible means of obtaining qualification. In short, the scheme will improve the job opportunities of many workers and facilitate their mobility.