



QUIA - visually and didactically appealing

A two-tier instrument in IQ regional network Rhineland-Palatinate prepares immigrants in language courses on the subject of “professional recognition”



IQ | GOOD PRACTICE to the point

Addressees for transfer:
Course managers or support of integration and language courses

Instrument QUIA:

The theme “professional recognition” is of great personal interest for participants of language and integration courses that have already obtained a vocational qualification abroad and are looking for a way to get a job in Germany that matches their qualification. In order to introduce the subject in German lessons, the teaching modules “QUIA” were developed. QUIA stands for “Qualification of immigrants through an integrated recognition procedure” and consists of two stages, which incorporate the educational materials for language course participants on the subject of professional recognition. Course leaders who have been trained on the subject of “recognition” may employ this material freely.

Project:

IQ recognition counselling and counselling on job training in Rhineland-Palatinate (statewide)

Implementing organisation:

Coordination IQ regional network Rhineland-Palatinate, in collaboration with the Competence Centre for Work-Related German Language and the Regional Association of adult education centres in Rhineland-Palatinate

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Starting position/challenge

Visits in language courses by employees of IQ recognition counselling and counselling on job training have shown how important the subject of professional recognition is for the participants. However, it is not possible to visit all the language and integration courses or to inform the course leaders in a profound way. Through course attendances, it also became clear that there still remain numerous questions concerning necessary documents and the formalities with regard to the recognition procedure. In order to help at this point, it was the central challenge within the project “Qualification of immigrants through an integrated recognition procedure (QUIA)” to design teaching material in such a fashion that it can be used at an early stage in language courses. The extensive subject of “professional recognition” should, however, be easily accessible in spite of its complexity. In addition, the lessons should be designed in a visually appealing and didactically diverse way. In addition to this, it was our aspiration to provide the course leaders with a clear handout and to add as little extra work as possible so that the material can be used after a training session without much preparation.

Implementation of the instrument QUIA

“QUIA” is didactic material used in language courses about professional recognition. The Network IQ Rhineland-Palatinate and the Association of adult education centres of Rhineland Palatinate developed and tested the concept in coordination with the IQ Competence Centre for Work-Related German Language. The participants in the integration or German course are informed early in the learning process about the possibility of a recognition of their professional qualifications. During the course, they can thus initiate their recognition procedure and get support from the Network IQ. In stage 1, the awareness of immigrants is raised for the issue of recognition within the field of vocational qualifications – both for



its content and its vocabulary. In stage 2, the recognition procedure is shown in more detail and individual questions may be included. The implementation of stage 1 will generally take place in two classes. Stage 2 consists of eight lessons that build on the first module and that can be offered on two additional afternoons, outside existing courses. Five adult education centres participated on the pilot project in Rhineland-Palatinate. Stage 1 was completed by 171 participants, stage 2 by 41 participants. Course managers are trained in advance in a half-day event concerning the basic knowledge for the recognition procedure and teaching aids. Moreover, contact for technical advice (for example, from the Network IQ) is established.

Summary

Professional recognition affects people directly. It is useful and worthwhile to inform immigrants about the subject of recognition as early as possible. Integration and language courses are ideally suited for this, as they are mandatory and straightforward. Language teachers are therefore suitable for the issue of “recognition”.

The success story continues

Five other adult education centres of Rhineland-Palatinate rely on QUIA

The implementation of the pilot project QUIA showed that many participants wanted to take part in recognition counselling after the completed instruction modules. The associated evaluation showed that the issue of professional recognition and counselling services on this subject were previously largely unknown. After the first module, participants felt better informed and able to cope with the language of the topic. They indicated that they would possibly even go to a counselling centre or look for recognition on their own. The Level 1 course material has since been studied by approximately 250 participants from the various



types of German language courses, mostly on the A2 level. It has also been used in higher or lower level courses. This encouraged the Regional Association of adult education centres of Rhineland-Palatinate to continue the success story QUIA. 14 additional course leaders were qualified for QUIA in stages 1 and 2 and five other adult education centres integrated modules 1 and 2, so, altogether, QUIA is thus currently carried out through integration and language courses in ten adult education centres, which also offer courses for refugees. The plan is to add another five adult education centres with 50 to 100 participants.

Three questions for Stephanie Freitag, recognition and counsellor on job training for the project “QUIA”

“Course participants find the material important”



What is the innovative aspect of the didactic material of QUIA?

It is the first time that the issues of professional recognition and recognition counselling are transmitted in this form in the teaching of German. Participants in German courses are linguistically and contextually enabled by QUIA to tackle the subject of recognition, which concerns them personally, by first consulting an IQ counselling centre in their vicinity and later by possibly aiming for a recognition procedure. The material is presented in a way that the course leaders require little extra effort in terms of preparation. By teaming up with the IQ counselling centres, the course leaders also do not have to act as experts in the field of recognition counselling.

Is the tool easily transferable?

The topic is personally and professionally interesting for participants in language and integration courses. The material could even be used successfully in courses for refugees. It can be used in all states and has been recognised by 90 percent of the course participants as “important” or “very important”. There is now strong interest in the local implementation of the project from the federal states Hamburg, Saarland, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg and Bavaria.

How applicable will the instrument be in the long term?

The evaluation has shown that the material can be used without great additional expense and is referred to by course leaders as well as participants as effective and profitable. The benefit-cost ratio is very good. The course leaders’ work load is alleviated through support by the IQ counsellors, and participants are informed in advance of their opportunities for professional recognition. This relevant topic can be applied efficiently in all types of German courses.

Imprint

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Network IQ

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