

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Experience in the development of RPL in Cameroon

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PLAN of the PRESENTATION

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I. Main objectives and raison d'être of RPL

- RPL is a mechanism that allows any person, regardless of age, level of education or status, to have the achievements of their experience validated for the obtaining of a diploma, a title or a professional certification.
- RPL produces the same effects as vocational qualifications obtained through apprenticeship, initial or continuing vocational training;
- RPL refers to titles or certificates issued by the State and registered in the National Directory of Professional Certifications;

II TECHNICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL COMPONENTS

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS

All sectors of activity and all departments that need VAE

- a) MINEFOP (Ministry of Labour and TVET)
- b) MINESUP (Ministry of Higher Education)
- c) MINESEC (Ministry of Secondary Education)
- d) MINTP (Ministry of Public works)
- e) ETC.

II TECHNICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL COMPONENTS

METHODOLOGICAL COMPONENTS

- MINEFOP: Existence and use of standards (referentials)
- MINESUP: Organized seminars, ad hoc committees responsible for the translation of BAC+2 level diplomas (BTS, HND) into competency frameworks and subsequently, the development/revision of occupational standards
- MINESEC: Existence and use of standards
- MINTP: Existence and use standards
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III LEGAL TEXTS GOVERNING RPL IN CAMEROON

a) MINESUP :

1. The Higher Education Orientation Act of 2001, in its section 2 on the organization of studies in higher education, in article 12, paragraph (3) stipulates that: "each cycle leads to the issuance of a national diploma or institution attesting to the knowledge, skills and / or elements of professional qualification acquired", **Ongoing revision of this Law on the orientation of Higher Education for a better display of RPL.**
2. The decree establishing, organizing and functioning the Committee responsible for the implementation of VAE, this committee's main mission is to reflect on the normative framework to be formulated for VAE.
3. The legal texts currently being prepared:
 - The draft Decree establishing the national VAE system in Higher Education in Cameroon

III LEGAL TEXTS GOVERNING RPL IN CAMEROON

b) MINEFOP: Three legal instruments govern RPL:

1. Law No. 2018/010 of 11 July 2018 governing vocational training in Cameroon;
2. Decree No. 2020/2662/PM of 23 June 2020 setting out the modalities of application of certain provisions of the aforementioned law;
3. Decision No. 205/MINEFOP/SG/DFOP/SDECC/SOEC of 09 August 2017 setting out the modalities for the organization of VAE sessions (decision taken well before the promulgation of the law).

IV VAE PROCESS

The process is as follows:

- **Information, counselling and guidance** which are collective and/or individual information meetings of candidates with a specialised counsellor;
- **The request for admissibility** which makes it possible to assess the admissibility of the application on the basis of the criteria previously defined;
- The **accompaniment** of a duration of at least three months which begins as soon as the application is accepted and allows the candidate to understand the approach and to identify the activities to be carried out, as well as to prepare his passage before the jury;
- The **validation** by the jury of the skills of the candidate in a professional situation;
- The **post-VAE follow-up** which is a period allowing the candidate, in case of partial validation or lack of validation, to benefit from individualized support for the necessary readjustments.
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V IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOOLS

a) Training of RPL Advisors:

- MINESUP benefited from the support of the AUF through the organization of three seminars:
- The deliverables are: RPL Advisor's guide, Support Charter, the RPL application file, the RPL jury, etc.

b) Development of certification tools (ongoing):

- Translation of diplomas into learning outcomes;
- Preparation of the operational directory of trades and jobs (ROME)
- Preparation of the National Directory of Professional Certifications (RNCP);
- Development of the National Framework for Professional Qualifications;

V IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOOLS

c) expérimentation-pilote de la mise en œuvre de la VAE :

Well before the promulgation of the 2018 law, several VAE sessions were organized on an experimental basis, thanks to the above-mentioned decision, for the professions of:

- Executive Secretary;
- Automotive repairer;
- Eyewear optician.
- NB: Other areas are on the lookout and await the expansion of the process

In this regard, a text of greater scope, the Decree in this case, is being prepared to be submitted for signature by the competent authorities.

VI- Challenges ahead

Although framed by the texts, the extended implementation of RPL to all areas of activity still faces major challenges, namely:

- The definition and publication of the National Directory (database) of Professional Certifications;
- The definition and publication of the levels of qualifications relating to the above-mentioned qualifications;
- And consequently, the development of the National Framework of Professional Qualifications and Qualifications.

VII- Actions already taken

The following actions already carried out could be capitalized on to address the above-mentioned challenges.

- The inventory, albeit not exhaustive, of the titles and certifications in force in Cameroon;
- The definition of the conditions of access and obtaining of said titles and certificates.

VIII- Cameroon's need for the ACQF

- Implementation of the necessary tools for the effective start of VAE, especially at the level of Higher Education;

CONCLUSION

- The VAE system is an approach of equity and promotion of social justice.
- The need for its expansion in all areas and especially its implementation at the level of Higher Education is real, in view of the strong demand, constantly growing.



Thank you for your kind attention