



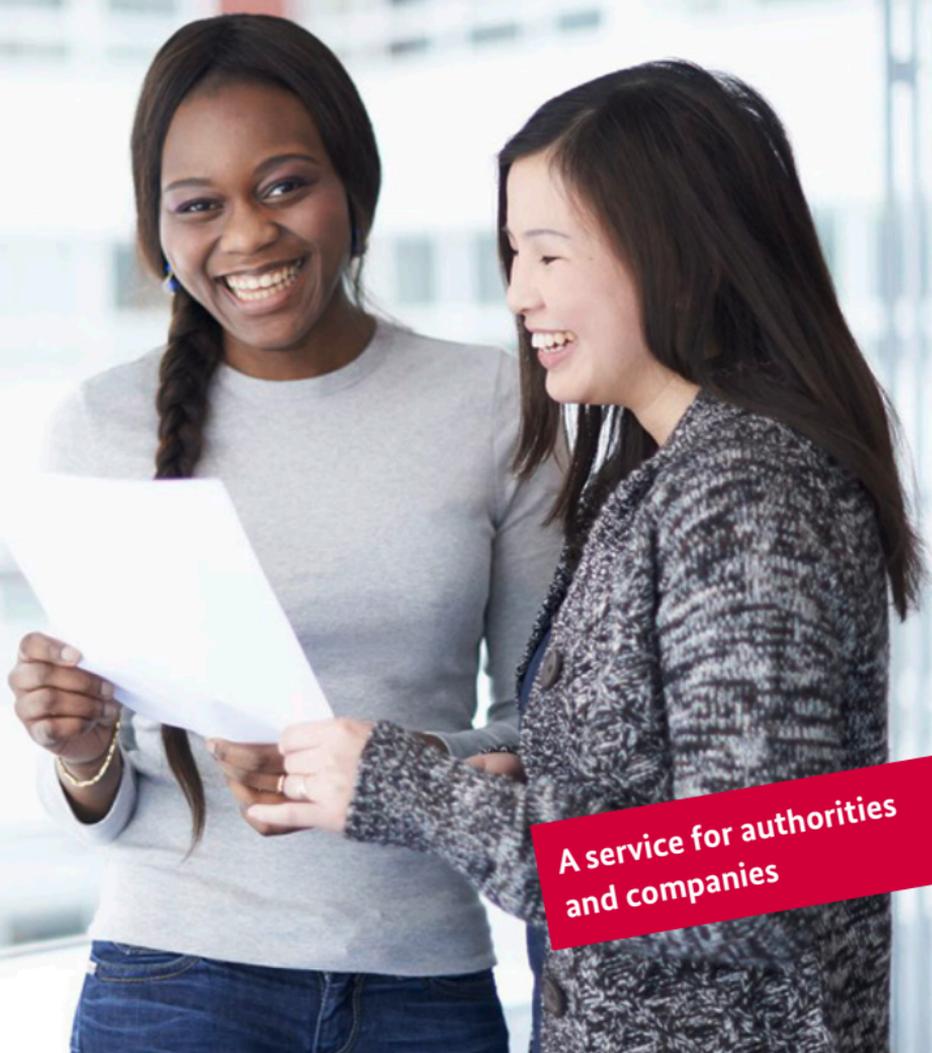
Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy



BQ Portal

Foreign Professional Qualifications: Assessment and Evaluation

*The Information Portal for Foreign
Professional Qualification*



**A service for authorities
and companies**

Our country and our businesses are faced with the immense challenge of demographic change, which is already affecting a number of different regions and sectors in Germany. This means that there are companies that are finding it difficult to recruit the qualified professionals they need. At the same time, we are confronted with the challenge of opening up opportunities to the rising numbers of refugees arriving in Germany. The most successful path to integration is through the workplace. It is therefore crucial that we open up the labour market to refugees and make use of their existing professional qualifications.



It is important that we tap all of our latent potential: there are already almost three million people living in Germany who have obtained a professional qualification abroad. However, many of these people do not work in the profession they were trained for – partly due to the lack of reliable information on the content and value of these qualifications. The BQ Portal provides the necessary information required to ensure the transparent and consistent assessment process.

Professional chambers can find all the information they need at www.bq-portal.de. Companies, too, can use the BQ Portal to find valuable information to help them in assessing foreign professional qualifications held by their applicants. Where the labour market integration of refugees is concerned, the BQ Portal represents an essential foundation stone that will help resolve the uncertainties of employers regarding the qualifications held by foreign applicants.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sigmar Gabriel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Sigmar" and "Gabriel" being prominent.

Sigmar Gabriel

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy

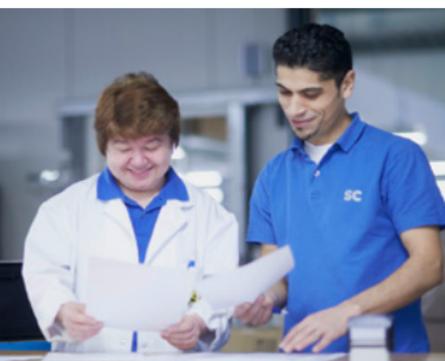
BQ Portal – The information portal for foreign professional qualifications



The BQ Portal fosters transparency and consistency. It is the only service in Germany to provide comprehensive information on foreign professional qualifications and vocational training systems.

Benefits:

- consistent assessment of foreign professional qualifications
- easy sharing of information and networking between chamber employees
- continuous expansion of knowledge and available information
- guidance for companies on the recruitment of foreign professionals



The BQ Portal fosters acceptance of foreign professional qualifications within Germany. It also helps qualified professionals with non-German roots to successfully integrate into the German labour market and German society.

Country and professional profiles: the heart of the BQ Portal

The BQ Portal is being continuously updated with the insights of expert professionals and academics. Country and professional profiles, assessment results, and practical examples are always being added at www.bq-portal.de. This special combination of expert professionals and academics helps to ensure the high quality and reliability of the information provided.



“Every day I receive requests regarding different professional qualifications obtained all over the world. To be able to properly process these, I need reliable information on foreign

vocational training systems and qualifications. The BQ Portal is really helpful! I can get all the information I need in just a few clicks.”

Dilek Intepe, Unit for Vocational Training, Berlin Chamber of Skilled Crafts



“I was already impressed when I found a professional profile on the BQ Portal that matched an application I was looking at. What I found really fantastic, though, was the fact that the formal assessment was also attached – that really saved me a lot of work!”

Silke Lorenz, Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications, Leipzig Chamber of Skilled Crafts

A tool that benefits all sides



Raising the skills level and integrating people from Germany and abroad into the job market is at the centre of the Federal Government's work to ensure that Germany has a sufficient supply of skilled labour. The Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications Act came into force in April 2012. Under this act, anyone who has obtained professional qualifications abroad can have these assessed to determine equivalence to German qualifications. This is all made possible by the BQ Portal, which is there to support:

- Chambers of Skilled Crafts, Chambers of Industry and Commerce, Chambers of Agriculture, and competent bodies for liberal professions, which can find valuable information and practical guidelines on how to evaluate foreign qualifications
- Companies who require further information to better assess the equivalence of the foreign qualifications held by their applicants
- Individuals who would like to have their foreign professional qualifications assessed and wish to know how to proceed



Find out more at:
www.bq-portal.de



The BQ Portal is winner
of the EPS Award 2015

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