

## First stakeholder workshop for the DIVERSE project

Cooking, HTML programming or child-rearing: examples of skills, knowledge or competencies we often learn as part of our life but without being presented a certificate for them. Since non-formal and informal skills do play a role in our professional lives, the EIF research project “DIVERSE” is working to develop a model for their recognition. This should also help create access to the labour market for non-EU citizens. As one of ten EU partners in the project, Karlsruhochschule is researching this issue.

On May 5, 13 experts took part in the first stakeholder workshop at Karlsruhochschule.



Those attending included the Baden-Württemberg Ministry for Integration, the Integration Office Karlsruhe, the EURegKA, Karlsruhe Adult Education College, Karlsruhe-Rastatt Employment Agency, Karlsruhe Chamber of Commerce, Mannheim Chamber of Skilled Trades, Freunde für Fremde e.V., Internationaler Bund, Intercultural Meeting Centre (ibz), Intercultural Education

Centre Mannheim (ikubiz) and a freelance educational consultant.

In contrast to the recognition of formal skills and qualifications through the Federal Law on the Ascertainment of Professional Qualifications (BQFG) and the Baden-Württemberg State Law on Recognition (LAnGBW), there are no standardised and generally recognised procedures for the evaluation of informal and non-formal competencies. The DIVERSE project aims to rectify this situation; in order to collate important requirements and viewpoints, the participants in the first workshop took part in various sessions including a “World Café” format. Since then, further interviews have started to deepen the insights.

In the coming weeks, using this feedback from the stakeholders, the DIVERSE research group at Karlsruhochschule will hold a second workshop to draft a prototype procedure for collecting and validating non-formal and informal skills from third country nationals and then to test it. The results will then be compared to results from ten project partners in various EU countries in order to compile a common instrument.

The DIVERSE research group will look at further important issues such as “Diversity management concepts in profit-oriented and non-profit organisations with a special

focus on cultural diversity through the consideration of third country nationals in the labour market” and “Participation of third country nationals in voluntary activities”.