**Summary**

# MOOC Week 6: Certification System

The test and certification is based on the following concepts

1. Life Long Learning Strategy

The European Commission and the Erasmus+ program emphasise the continuous education of teachers. The member states are asked to support this program so that e.g. cities like Berlin started a mandatory continuous training program for teachers where teachers receive points. See <https://www.news4teachers.de/2017/07/fortbildungen-punktekonto-fuer-jeden-lehrer-und-die-schulleitung-solls-kontrollieren-gew-buerokratiemonster/> .

While the establishment of EU programs takes time to be placed in member sates it happens to be implemented in all member states over a period of time. This effectively means that teachers still being years in work will become part of life long learning strategy programs in Europe.

1. Certification Approach

European recognition requires certification based on a comparable schema. This means that teachers across all regions of Europe will have a same type of exam for the same set of skills and the certificate will be the same across all regions.

For that reason, an ISO 17024 international standard for personal certification regulates how such exams shall be organised and that the exam body shall be separate from the training body. Also European certification platforms (e.g. ECQA European Certification and Qualification Association) developed exams and mapped them onto the ISO 17024 criteria.

In ELIC the ECQA certification system has been adapted (update of software programs of ECQA) to support MOOC based exams and certification. Attendees can register, do the exam and the certificate is generate and sent by email to the person.

1. Value of the Certificate

ECQA provides a certificate which is based on ISO 17024 guidelines and is comparable across all European regions. ECQA certificates are used in various cases already (Certified Terminology Manager for all translators in the European Commission, Certified functional safety manager for lead Automotive industry, innovative teacher certificates issued in Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, etc.).

1. How to Access

The exam registration and performance is available at:

<https://www.ecqa.org/index.php?id=58&domain_id=123&organisation_id=191>

1. Do you need a certificate?

Still countries in Europe have different law.

The law in Austria (until 2019) only foresees mandatory continuous learning of teachers at secondary and not Gymnasium level.

In Germany there is a general law that all teachers need continuous education and some cities (e.g. Berlin) started measuring it.

The European Lisbon treaty (2010) asked the member states to work on continuous learning programs for teachers and left the control of it to national states. This effectively means that it is a free choice for teachers to do the exam and receive a certificate.