

By Gudrun Breyer

# ACADEMY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (WBA)

## ... qualifying and accrediting adult educators

The Academy of Continuing Education, "Weiterbildungsakademie Österreich" (wba), is a system for the qualification and accreditation of adult educators. It was developed by representatives from the major Austrian adult education organisations and research institutions and founded in 2007. While adult education is still a heterogeneous field and difficult to compare, the wba sets standards and strengthens the professionalization of Austrian adult education and has, within only three years' time, developed into a European exemplary model. A new approach to recognising acquired competences.

The wba is a novelty within Austrian adult education insofar as it recognises formally as well as non-formal or in informal ways of acquired competences and admits a vast range of documents as evidence of competence. Guidance throughout the certification process. Apart from recognising competences, the wba provides individual educational and career counselling in regard to the acquisition of missing skills. The wba itself does not provide further education programmes but accredits suitable offers.

### The wba's target groups

Individuals actively involved in adult education are the target group of wba. The wba is also aimed at adult education institutions that want to have their offers of further education accredited.



### Two-level-certification

The wba awards a certificate (rated at 30 ECTS) and a diploma (rated at 60 ECTS). While the certificate attests to a person's basic skills as an adult educator, the diploma stresses the specific field of adult education the graduate is working in. Practical experience in the field of adult education is a prerequisite.

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*Occupation: pedagogical employee at the wba (Vienna) and educational manager (focussing on quality management, marketing and product development) in a private language institute in St. Pölten (Lower Austria).*

### Benefits

The wba enables participants to obtain a degree that bundles all their previous competences and is widely recognised within the profession. The certification process, including a compulsory three-day-assessment, is of a highly self-reflexive character and strengthens participants' self-awareness and their professional and personal advancement.

### Contact

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## Das Modell der wba im Überblick

