

Assessment of Prior Formal and Informal
Competences also known as
"Realkompetansevurdering" or "RKV" in
Norway

Oslo Adult Education Servicesenter and Oslo Adult
Education Secondary School Sinsen

Why do we need RKV in Norway?

- Prior experiential learning comprises all the formal or informal competence that a person has acquired through education, work and running a business (this can be paid work, relevant voluntary work, etc.)
- It is necessary to get an assessment of the prior experiential learning if you want to seek admission to an upper secondary school without necessary documents. This is so that adult learners can prove that they have finished primary and lower secondary education in one or several subjects. (ca.25 percent of adults in secondary education have had an RKV !).
- Many people have competences and skills which have been learned outside of the traditional school system.
- Many people would like to shorten the time they spend at school and so will we. It saves the state money and will get them into work quicker !

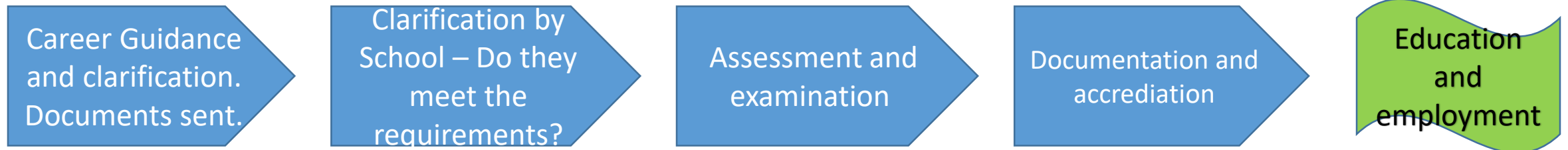
What is an RKV?

- Real competence assessment was one of the measures introduced as a result of The Competence Reform (Kompetansereform) St. meld. 42 (1997-1998), which aimed to contribute towards a «**Continuous and systematic competence development which will counteract the knowledge gap**» in Norway.
- Became more used after EU recommendation on the appreciation of non-formal and informal learning that was launched in 2012, which has also been incorporated into the EEA Agreement since 2014.
- RKV has also gained new relevance due to **increased immigration** - including both refugees and labour migrants. RKV can be used on both Primary Schooling but in Oslo we only award it for Secondary Schooling as per September 2021.
- (We are developing framework for Primary Schooling in Oslo as we speak!)

What steps do we take for an "RKV"

- Del 2 i "*Nasjonale retningslinjer for realkompetansevurdering*"
(National guidelines for Assessments of Formal and Informal Competences)

Steps 1 and 2 usually occur at my school, **Step 3** is completed by a professional with a combination of a teaching qualification and a Diploma in their trade. **Step 4** (a legally binding decision, the certification of the award and future steps (ie. Place of further education in secondary schooling) is handled by the school.



Process broken down step for step.

- **Steps 1 and 2:** Candidate sends in all documentation which they may have.

Candidate is contacted by RKV team, and a meeting is agreed. This is usually done digitally by using Teams or by Zoom, but can also be done physically.

Here we talk to the candidate in detail. We see, are the qualifications strong enough? Does the candidate speak good enough Norwegian to be able to communicate at an appropriate standard for an RKV (many vocational terms which must be discussed and explained).

In most cases, a candidate will be asked to provide more paperwork. It is here where we take away around 30-40 percent of all RKV applications as "not strong enough".

Step 3

- Our findings are sent to Sinsen (another school) who will then ring the candidate and double check that our findings are correct. They will then set up an RKV exam with a specialist in the trade. As these jobs are very highly sought after, a Vocational Specialist who will give the exam will have many years experience in that specific trade, as well as a teaching degree. As the RKV exam takes place, the Specialist will award a decision of either "passed" or "not passed" on four areas from the curriculum.
- Cost of this exam is 1500 kr for year 1, and if the candidate is strong enough, another 1000kr for year 2 (Around 130 euros for year 1 and 100 euros for year 2).

Step 4

- Relevant accreditation is awarded by the school. A relevant diploma is given to the candidate. A place for further schooling (if relevant) is handled by the school so that this either guarantees that the pupil can continue his/her education or be assisted in applying for further schooling or an apprenticeship as/when necessary. All forms and records are sent to a digital scanning platform where they are kept for 25 years.

Before the application for an RKV is sent, the following must be made clear to the applicant

- Teaching Plans – How many skills does the candidate have which match up to what is asked for in the teaching plans? Can the candidate use the correct definitions for many of the terms, skills, etc used in that specific trade?
- Realistic Picture of the Trade (fra utdanning.no) – Does my perception of the trade actually match reality? (Building, Welding, Plumbing, etc).
- CV – The CV must be correct. It must give good examples of all tasks, responsibilities and areas of responsibility at each workplace. The more they can document and describe, the better chance they have to get their skills assessed!
- Certification – Does the applicant have any other formal or informal certification? For example, first-aid, voluntary work, etc.
- Completed (or non-completed) education - Does the applicant have any relevant subjects which can be taken into our assessment?

An example of a Childrens Worker (Barn-og ungdomsarbeider)

- - Amina (from Afghanistan) has sent in an application for an RKV – She includes documentation on her prior schooling, plus one years schooling from Norway. In addition to this, we also recieved her CV with "attest" (An attest is written by a former employer and describes period of employment and related tasks) – From this, we noted the following:
 - - She worked in a nursery 2019 - 2020 for 18 months prior to the pandemic where she was financially supported by NAV (Labour Welfare Office)
 - - She had taken 18 months of secondary education in Afghanistan and scored highly in English and Maths.
 - Amina met all criteria set in the plan for VG1 Health and Social Worker and was given a one hour interview by a Specialist. She answered all questions to a reasonable standard. She was awarded pass in VG1 – All RKV are only "Pass" or "Fail"

Assessment for year 1 in Health Care is based on a current learning plan.

Teaching Plan Vg1 Health And Social Care: <https://www.udir.no/lk20/hsf01-03> (Helse- og oppvekstfag)

The consequence is that she could begin directly for the second year of her education: (Barn og ungdomsfag)