Module 2

PODCAST 3

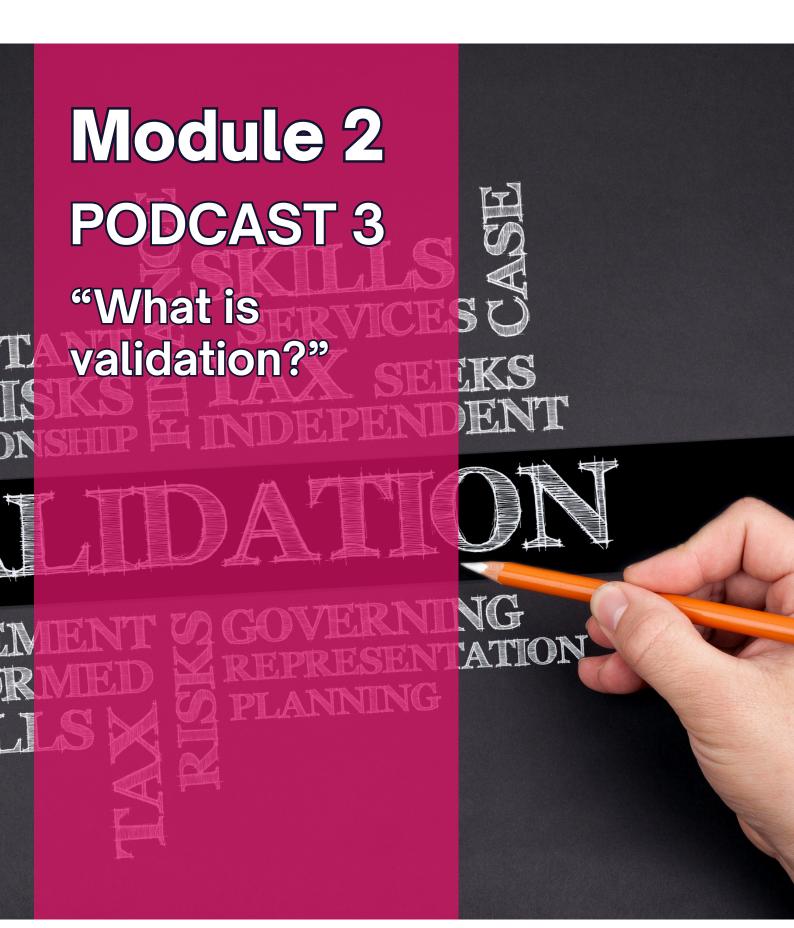## "What is validation?"

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Have you ever wondered why certain teaching methods are more effective than others? This is thanks to a process called validation.

Validation involves checking whether teaching methods work as they should, that is, whether participants actually learn and develop. Validation helps avoid errors and ensures that the methods used are effective and safe for students. This process includes various steps.

From planning training and workshops to assessing participants progress, all to make sure that teaching methods are truly effective and beneficial to the participants development. Thanks to validation in education, high quality teaching can be ensured, which translates into better results.

Validation, as an important procedure for confirming the correctness and appropriateness of data, is an inherent element of numerous scientific fields and professional practice. In both medicine, psychology and software engineering, validation plays a key role in ensuring the precision and reliability of research results and final products. Validation theory, despite its extensive scope, focuses mainly on developing and applying methodologies confirming the correctness and effectiveness of data, tools and procedures.

When describing validation, it is worth explaining what exactly it does and how the process works. Validation involves confirming acquired skills, knowledge and social competences, regardless of the method of learning. It is an assessment process that allows individuals to document their learning achievements and provides opportunities for professional, educational and personal development. Through validation, an individual can demonstrate their skills, which is important both for those who actively participate in professional life and want to develop, and for those who return to the labor market after a break or are looking for new employment opportunities.

In Poland, validation is regulated by law. Validation in the light of the Act on the Integrated Qualifications System is an important process of ensuring the quality of awarded qualifications and the recognition of learning outcomes outside the formal education system. The Act introduces a framework enabling the collection and comparison of educational achievements.

It also introduces the concepts of validation and certification, which confirm obtained qualifications. Validation involves checking whether the person applying for the qualification has achieved the required learning outcomes, regardless of the method of acquiring knowledge. This process provides the opportunity to recognize the effects of non-formal and informal learning. Certification, on the other hand, means obtaining a document confirming the award of a specific qualification after obtaining a positive validation result. The competent minister grants the authority to certify qualifications, and certifying institutions are responsible for carrying out the validation and certification process. These regulations enable a coherent and credible system of recognition of qualifications and educational and professional development in various areas of life.

In the context of ensuring the credibility of the validation process, clearly defined requirements that must be met by institutions granting qualifications are important. These organizational and personnel criteria are intended to ensure the reliability and comparability of validation results. Validation requirements define the criteria that must be met by an entity wishing to obtain the right to certify qualifications. They describe the learning outcomes needed to obtain a given qualification and the criteria for their verification. Certifying bodies must prepare validation plans in accordance with these requirements. These requirements are intended to ensure the reliability and comparability of validation results, adapted to the level of complexity of the qualifications. They may concern methods, staff, organization and materials needed for validation. In some cases, they may be supplemented with guidance for entities carrying out validation. The requirements may also regulate the issues of appealing against the validation result or the conditions for re-entering it. They should be constructed in such a way as to guarantee the reliability of the validation result by eliminating unnecessary elements.

The validation process, consisting of four key stages, is a fundamental tool for confirming and assessing achieved learning outcomes. The first stage, identification, requires an depth analysis of the skills and knowledge that the candidate has acquired during his or her learning process.

This is the moment when your competences are assessed and any gaps or gaps in knowledge that may need to be supplemented are identified. The next stage, documentation, includes collecting evidence such as certificates, attestations or work samples that confirm the acquired knowledge and skills. This is an important step in the validation process, providing an objective basis for assessing the candidate's achievements. After collecting the documentation, the verification stage takes place, in which it is checked whether the candidate has actually achieved the required learning outcomes. This is the point at which a variety of assessment methods are used to confirm the authenticity of competence. The final stage, certification, is confirmation of a positive verification result by issuing a document that officially confirms the achievement of specific learning outcomes. These four stages, closely interconnected, ensure the reliability, objectivity and credibility of the validation process, which is crucial in confirming and recognizing candidates educational and professional achievements.

In summary, validation is a key process of confirming the correctness and adequacy of data, as well as the achievements and competences of an individual. In fields ranging from education to profession, it plays a vital role in ensuring the reliability and trustworthiness of research results and products. It consists of several stages, including identification, documentation, verification and certification of achievements. It is also important to regulate the validation process in qualifications systems, which enables the recognition of lifelong learning outcomes. By supporting the development of individuals and educational systems, validation becomes an integral element in confirming competences and skills, contributing to the improvement of educational and professional processes.

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