General Information and Educational Attainment

- Population (2018): 36 Million
- Population by age group (2018): 0-24 years: 62.8 % / 25-54 years: 30.7 % / 55 and older: 6.6 %
- Population aged 15-24 years (2018): 7.9 million
- Illiteracy rate (2015): 62 % of population older than 15
- Primary school enrolment ratio (2013): ca. 72 % per age cohort
- Secondary school enrolment ratio (2017): 49.6 %
- Vocational education enrolment ratio (2017): below 1 %
- Tertiary education enrolment ratio (2014): 8.5 %
- Expenditure on education (2015): 3.2 % of GDP
- Languages: Dari and Pashto, widely spoken foreign language: English

Asylum applicants in the EU Member States

- Asylum applications in 2017: ca. 43.800 first time applicants (2016: 183.000)
- EU Countries with the most asylum applications in 2017: Germany (37.5%), Greece (17%), France (15%)
- Asylum recognition rate in 2017: 47% (2016: 57%)

Education System

- **History**: since 2001, the education system is being reconstructed after the war
- **Structure**: highly centralised education system
- **State training programs**: initial vocational training is offered in the vocational schools (classes 10-12). Graduates can continue their education in colleges (duration: 2 years) or directly enter the labour market. Vocational training is organised as full-time school-based programs. The practical part of the training makes up 60 %. Practice is provided in workshops and labs. Practical placements are not a part of the training.
- **No. of training occupations**: 93 training occupations
- **Non-state training programs**: a well-established non-formal and informal sector, informal apprenticeship training („learning by doing“) is prevailing
- **Further information** available in the country profile Afghanistan at **www.bq-portal.de**

Particularities of the Education System

- The Afghan training system has broken down during the years of the civil war (1989 – 2001).
- The educational sector is being rebuilt since 2001. Afghanistan has a growing number of state and private universities, especially in the Kabul region.
- Despite rebuilding efforts, Afghanistan is still one of the least-educated countries in the
Due to the unstable situation in the country, there are still no well-functioning administrative structures and no control of the whole country. In many areas, there is a lack of educational institutions, training and study places, (adequate) resources and teaching materials, as well as qualified staff.

- Women and girls had no access to education during the Taliban rule (1996 – 2001). In terms of access to education, today there are still differences between men and women.

Afghanistan’s (vocational) education system
(since 2001)
**Legend:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Green" /></td>
<td>Vocational education</td>
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<td><img src="image2" alt="Green and Gray" /></td>
<td>Double qualifying programs (vocational training + general education)</td>
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<td><img src="image3" alt="Gray" /></td>
<td>General education</td>
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<td><img src="image4" alt="Turquoise" /></td>
<td>Post-secondary, non-tertiary education</td>
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<td><img src="image5" alt="Orange" /></td>
<td>Tertiary education</td>
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Recognition in Germany - Success Story

„Everyone is happy with my professional experience“

Laila Alim came to Germany from Afghanistan already in 1985. Following some detours, she now works as a registered general nurse in home care.

Laila Alim fled to Germany for political reasons at the age of 20. She had previously completed a vocational training course as a midwife and general nurse in her native region in southern Afghanistan. Yet without recognition she was not allowed to work in her profession in Germany. "I had actually intended to immediately pursue recognition, because my work is very dear to me. But my family situation did not allow for it." For 15 years, she cared full time for her five children. "Yet I never lost sight of my goal to also work in Germany."

Laila Alim eventually launched the project of having her training as a midwife recognised in 2011. However, she was unable to complete the required adaptation programme, because she could not find an internship placement near to where she lives. A very disappointing setback. "But I fought on!", says the optimistic power woman.

And a new door opened. An employee at the Behörde für Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz in Hamburg (Agency for Health and Consumer Protection in Hamburg) made her aware that as an alternative she could apply for recognition of her second vocational training qualification as a general nurse. At first, however, the qualification failed to be assessed as being equivalent. This is why Laila Alim attended a one-year adaptation programme, which was funded by the non-profit "passage" association and carried out in co-operation with the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf and its Universitäre Bildungakademie (University Education Academy). A demanding period. Laila Alim particularly struggled with the host of specialist terminology during the training programme. "But I have learnt many new things, also, because my training in Afghanistan was geared specifically towards treating female patients."

After the 51-year-old had completed her practical experience periods and module examinations, she was finally granted recognition as a registered general nurse.

"I subsequently received so many job offers, I hardly had to do much by way of applying for jobs! I had already worked at my current job in a temporary assistant role during the adaptation programme", says Alim; much has changed for her since then. "I now receive more respect in my job as a registered general nurse. And everyone is happy with my professional competence", she says. She adds that having been able to complete the adaptation qualification in Germany means a lot to her and that it fills her with pride. "I enjoy working and attend to my patients with an open heart. And my children now are old enough, too, so I can freely work in my profession. Moreover, I am proud that I now am able to buy them something nice more often."

Further success stories at www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/en
Find out how you can support your employees in the recognition process in Germany at www.bq-portal.de