Ten years of experience implementing the Council recommendation on validation

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Validation of non-formal and informal learning

Cedefop working on validation for more than 20 years

www.cedefop.europa.eu/validation
Validation means a process of confirmation by an authorised body that an individual has acquired learning outcomes measured against a relevant standard.

- Identification
- Documentation
- Assessment
- Certification

Formative
- Recognition of prior learning (RPL)
- Skills assessment
- Credit exemptions

Summative
- Prior learning assessment (PLA)

Recognition, Validation and Accreditation of non-formal and informal learning (RVA)

Valid with value

Validation Europe
Storyline of validation in EU

1995
European Commission White Paper on Teaching and Learning

2000
Making lifelong learning a reality

2004
European Principles

2008
EQF recommendation

2009
1st edition European Guidelines

2012
Council Recommendation on validation

2014
5th EU inventory

2016
Updated European guidelines

2016
Upskilling pathways recommendation

2017
European Pillar of social rights

2018
6th EU inventory

2020
New skills agenda

2022
New updated guidelines

The main principles

1. The centrality of the individual
2. Objectives of validation (4 phases)
3. Information, guidance and counseling
4. Stakeholder coordination
5. Links to national qualification frameworks
6. Standards and learning outcomes
7. Quality assurance
8. Professional practitioners
9. Validation in context
10. Validation tools
The fundamental values of validation

1. All learning, irrespective of where and when it takes place, is valuable for the individual and for society.

2. Formal education needs to be complemented by validation of non-formal and informal learning.
EU inventory - A rich source of information

- 39 country reports (covering 36 countries)
- Providing detailed information by sector

✓ Sub-sector of education
  ▪ General Education
  ▪ IVET
  ▪ CVET
  ▪ Higher education
  ▪ Adult education

✓ Labour market
✓ Third sector

- Thematic studies
- International country cases
- A synthesis of main findings

www.cedefop.europa.eu/validation/inventory
Evaluation of the 2012 Recommendation

• All Member States have taken action;
• On the whole more people have validation opportunities and can find better information and guidance on validation;
• Wide agreement that in general validation benefits justify its costs;
• Wide consensus that the Recommendation is consistent with other actions and tools;
• Overall, the Recommendation has had a certain impact on national action on validation.

Challenges
• Many people still have no access to validation – no information, not eligible, no means
• Validation arrangements are not comprehensive and not coordinated
• Guidance may not be effective (outreach)
• Need to involve more stakeholders
• Poor information on costs and benefits of validation
Key Challenges for the future

**Reducing complexity**
- Diversity of stakeholders
- Diversity of sectors/contexts
- Diversity of individuals and needs
- Diversity of professionals and services

**Assure agreed standards**
- Reference points
- Learning outcomes approach
- Education and Labour market oriented

**Valid and reliable tools**
- Multiplicity
- Adaptable and robust

**Digitalization and certification**
- New landscape of qualifications
- Use of ICT


Thank you

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