

## **Recognition of Non-formal and Informal Learning: Emerging Issues, Cost and Benefits**

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The communication will try to shed light on the emerging issues in a field that seem to rank very high on the policy agenda in many [European] countries. It is based on an OECD study carried out in 22 countries on the 5 continents in 2007-08 ([www.oecd.org/edu/recognition](http://www.oecd.org/edu/recognition)). It will succinctly address the issues of definitions, rationale, arrangements and practice, barriers, cost and benefits as well as suggestions for ways forward.

The main conclusions are that there are good practices everywhere. However, none of the countries have reached a stage where one can talk about a system as such. Recognition of non-formal and informal learning may be a suitable solution to the problem of lack of recognition of existing skills, knowledge and competences but it cannot be a systematic alternative to education and training. As the presentation will try to show, provided a consensus is built on what recognition can deliver and cannot deliver, it may nevertheless become a revolutionary approach.