



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training



Workshop I: Implementation of European tools and principles: a catalyst for lifelong learning

**Working Group I, Agora Conference, Thessaloniki 16-17
March 2009**

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Presentations

European tools and principles with a focus on:

- National qualifications frameworks developments linked to the EQF implementation
- Validation of non formal and informal learning

Qualifications frameworks: catalysts for lifelong learning? *Jens Bjornavold, Cedefop*

Recognition of non-formal and informal learning: emerging issues, cost and benefits, *Patrick Werquin, OECD*

Shift from VET to lifelong learning in the Czech Republic, *Jitka Pohankova, NUOV, Czech Republic*

Chair: Mara Brugia



Questions

- What is the added value of qualifications frameworks?
- What are the main obstacles hampering progress in developing/ implementing NQFs and how they can be overcome?
- How could the introduction of systems of validation of non-formal and informal learning progress at a faster pace? Which barriers need to be brought down?
- What are the benefits and cost of validation of non-formal and informal learning? How can cost be reduced? What can validation deliver and what can it not deliver?



Additional questions...

- How to keep the momentum in order to achieve continuity and sustainability?
- Which is the relevance for the individual? Will the tools make finally a real difference?
- Living with the financial crisis...



Answers and reflections

NQFs: The snowball effect, instruments with a vision, challenging existing perceptions of qualifications, the need to reflect the national context.

The trap of loosing momentum, fragmentation, formalism. The practical examples of establishing a national framework.

Validation of non formal and informal learning: Definitions, rationale, arrangements and practice, barriers, cost and benefits ssuggestions.

All learning should be recognised



Issues and challenges

- The use of the learning outcomes as a common language, opening up the black box. Need for practical cooperation, testing and piloting.
- Understanding “recognition” (social dimension) and the relation with training. Learning that is not visible is not useful.
- Linking validation with GDP or with culture.
- Validation of non formal and informal learning and the practical cooperation (Cluster, PLAs). Copenhagen methodology as an efficient working method.
- Higher education and the validation of non formal and informal learning. Low interest.
- EU tools in the fight against the economic crisis. The learning outcomes approach addresses better short term needs. Efficiency of VET to the labour market needs is increased by the tools.