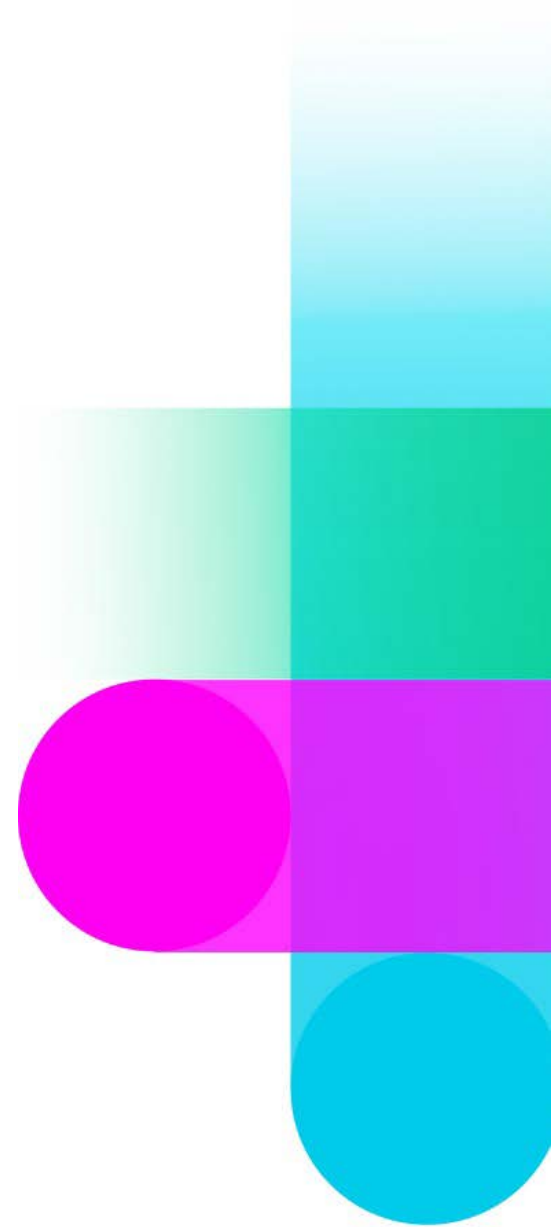


Ensuring transparency and facilitating transferability of learning outcomes; analysing two decades of European and national initiatives

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Cedefop workshop: Making progression in learning a reality
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Overview of presentation

- WA1 research questions and methodology
- Thematic policy framework
- Overview of five thematic areas
- Supporting policy initiatives & measures
- Q&A

WA1 Research Questions

- **RQ1:** Which European policy initiatives, since 2000 and across levels and sectors, have contributed to institutional or system change by addressing transparency and transferability of learning outcomes (addressing formal qualifications as well as outcomes of non-formal and informal learning)?
- **RQ2:** What is the orientation of these policy initiatives and which objectives have been set?
- **RQ3:** How are these policy initiatives connected to each other (and with other tools and initiatives) and do they support or contract each other?
- **RQ4:** How can European policy initiatives in this area be judged according to the criteria of sustainability and impact?

MOBILITY

**LIFELONG
LEARNING**

**Transparency and
Transferability of LOs**

**Quality
assurance**

**Comparability
of skills and
qualifications**

**Validation of
non-formal
and informal
learning**

**Credit
accumulation
and transfer**

**Mutual
recognition
of skills and
qualifications**

EU FUNDING POLICY EXPERIMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTIVES



Thematic Area 1: Encouraging the use of quality assurance mechanisms

Main policy tools: **EQAVET & ENQA**

Objectives:

- Increase the quality and consistency of learning across different sectors and learning programmes
- Increase the transparency of learning programmes to provide clearer evidence of the learning outcomes achieved by learners
- Provide stronger links between learning programmes and qualifications and NQFs and the EQF
- Assist the transferability of qualifications or units of learning between different countries, sectors, or levels of education and training

Thematic Area 2: Promoting the comparability of skills, competences and qualifications

Main policy tools: **EQF / NQFs, QF-EHEA, Europass, European key competences framework, Competence frameworks (e.g. DigComp, EntreComp, ...), ESCO, Micro-credentials**

Objectives:

- Increase the transparency of qualifications and/or parts of qualifications by making them more readable and understandable across different countries and systems
- Link the achievement of qualifications at different levels and within different sectors with concrete learning outcomes to express what individuals know, understand and are able to do at the end of a learning process
- Support the mobility and progression of learners and workers within and across different countries, education, training and career paths

Thematic Area 3: Enabling credit accumulation and transfer

Main policy tools: **ECTS & ECVET**

Objectives:

- Make learning programmes more transparent – by assigning credit points based on what learning outcomes have been achieved
- Facilitate and promote learner and worker mobility by enabling the transferability of learning to different settings, institutions, countries and sectors
- Facilitate the accreditation and accumulation of credits developed via informal, non-formal, formal, and part-time learning towards the achievement of qualifications in different countries, sectors, or levels of education and training

Thematic Area 4: Supporting the validation of non-formal & informal learning

Main policy tools: **2012 Council Recommendation on validation**; **Cedefop validation guidelines** (2009, 2015 & upcoming 2022); **European Inventory on validation of non-formal & informal learning** (Cedefop, EC & ETF – 7 updates, most recent: 2018); **Youthpass**

Objectives:

- Increase the transparency of learning outcomes achieved through non-formal & informal learning;
- Support lifelong & life-wide learning by acknowledging, valuing & recognising learning whenever (cradle to grave) & wherever (in education, at work, home or leisure) it takes place;
- Facilitate mobility within education/training & between education sub-sectors & in the labour market by improving access & mobility of individuals, both into & between education and employment
- Promote social (and labour market) inclusion by improving access to and mobility within the labour market of disadvantaged groups such as immigrants and refugees, the unemployed, older workers

Thematic Area 5: Encouraging mutual recognition of skills & qualifications

Main policy tools: **Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)** (CoE & Unesco – adopted in 1997); **EU's Directive 2005/36/EC on professional qualifications**; **2018 Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of qualifications**; EU transparency & recognition tools (e.g. **EQF, ECTS, ECVET, EQAVET, Europass, ESCO**)

Objectives:

- Improve the transparency of learners' qualifications & skills by helping promote mutual recognition of these qualifications & their learning outcomes
- Support the mutual recognition of qualifications by facilitating trust between learning institutions & other stakeholders (e.g. labour market actors) in different countries & reducing the barriers to learning & work mobility
- Ensure the recognition of both formal & informal and non-formal learning & competences

Supporting policy initiatives & measures

EU Programmes (e.g. policy experimentation programmes)

- Leonardo da Vinci (**LdV I & II**), e.g. testing & pilot experimentation in relation to the identification, assessment & recognition of non-formal & informal learning
- **Socrates I & II**, e.g. testing & pilot experimentation on validation, support for pilot projects
- **Erasmus** (& its successor, **Erasmus+**), e.g. support for an Erasmus pilot project (ECTS Pilot Scheme, 1988-1995) which resulted in the ECTS
- **Grundtvig**, e.g. support for multilateral projects, networks & thematic seminars that developed & tested various validation approaches in different education sectors & settings
- Other EU programmes (**Adapt**, **Equal**, etc), e.g. experimentation & pilot projects on validation

EU Funding

- European Social Fund (**ESF**), e.g. development of National Qualifications Frameworks in line with EQF, support for setting up validation systems
- Employment & Social Innovation programme (**EaSI**) (2014-2020), esp. through its **EURES & PROGRESS Axes** & support for pilot projects, e.g. as regards the Upskilling Pathways initiative, including the recognition & validation of skills
- **Erasmus+** (& its predecessor, **Erasmus**), e.g. support for ECVET pilot projects
- Lifelong Learning Programme (**LLP**) (2007-2013), e.g. support for ECVET pilot projects

Q&A

Any Questions?



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Thank you for your attention!

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