

# Recognition of non-formal and informal Learning in OECD countries – Results and NQF Developments



GUNDTVIG –  
a Decade of European  
Innovation in Adult Learning  
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# Agenda

## Recognition of nonformal and informal Learning (RNFIL)

- Objectives
- Definitions
- Country Practices
- Influencing Factors



# Objectives of the Activity

- creating transparency
- clarifying the conditions
- providing information for policy-makers
- learning from each other
- by exchanging experience

# Why is RNFIL a Policy Tool?

- Ageing population
- Demand for higher qualifications
- Mismatch of skills
- Demand for new skills
- Migration
- Costs of training
- Motivation for resuming formal studies

# Participating Countries

22 countries on 5 continents

Australia, Austria, Belgium-Flanders, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South-Africa, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom

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# Recognition of What?

## Non-formal and informal Learning

- Many definitions on account of different learning cultures
- Formal learning: structured in terms of content, scheduling, organisation
- Informal learning: unintentional, but sometimes intentional too
- Non-formal learning: varies a lot

# Intention of the Process?

## Recognition

- Different meanings too
- Formal recognition: value within the national formal education system
- Social recognition: value within the society, especially enterprises

# Formal Recognition

Formal Recognition aims at

- access to an assessment
- access to an educational programme
- entry to higher education
- reduction of learning time
- full qualification
- full qualification for all qualifications

## But what is ...

... a qualification?

There is no common understanding about, e.g.

- intensity

- time

of a learning process leading to a qualification  
and/or

- learning outcomes required

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# A small Insight ...

... into 4 European Countries

- Czech Republic
- Germany
- Belgium (Flemish Community)
- Ireland

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# Factors Influencing the Development of RNFIL

- formal education and training system
- modular programmes
- political system
- national qualifications framework
- credit transfer system
- labour market
- costs
- currency
- policy position and legal framework

**Thank you!**

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