Chair:

Javier Molina, Ministry of Education, Spain

Speakers:

- Sophie WEISSWANGE, DG EAC

- Patrick WERQUIN, OECD

Rapporteur:

Dana STROIE, Romania

Key messages (1):

❑ **validation and recognition of competences must be underpinned by quality asurance at:**

- **system level -** to ensure the quality of and adherence to policy in the domain

- **process level –** to ensure that procedures and practices are fair, transparent, valid and reliable

❑ policies and procedures should be based on **established and commonly agreed principles.**

❑ **internal and external quality assurance** mechanisms must be in place.

Key messages (2):

❑ **standards and ownership of standards.**

❑ **methodological convergence .**

❑ **the cost -benefit ratio– an optim balance betwen the complexity** of methods and instruments for assessment and validation of non formal and informal learning **and their cost; social benefits should not be neglected in this evaluation.**

❑ **evidence based policy and procedures, thus avoiding bureaucracy.**

Aims and Challenges:

❑ **learning outcomes approach.**

❑ **key competences and professional skills.**

❑ **mutual trust** in the validation and recognition of competences must be assured.

❑ **social recognition** of non formal and informal learning is essential.

Priorities:

❑ **information and communication**

❑ **guidance**

❑ **equal access**

❑ **in line and coherent with formal learning assessment** – strict but not overreact (in formal system is random sampling, why should non formal and informal learning assessment do more?)

❑ **flexibility**

Priorities:

❑ **reliable tools and instruments for assessment**

❑ **trained and accredited assessors**

❑ **common assessment processes and methodology** that garantuee **validity, reliability, transparency, objectivity**

❑ **data collection, surveys, more research** in the domain for an **evidence based policy** (possibly a pannel data collection, extended on a long enough period of time)

❑ **adequate indicators** to **evaluate the system and the processes** (both quantitative e.g. rate of persons certified and qualitative e.g.rate of satisfaction of beneficiaries)

Conclusions:

❑ **quality assured validation and recognition of competences will take time and wil have its cost, but is the only solution to create new routes to qualifications.**

❑ **formal and non formal, informal learning are not in a competition,** they both have their place and role in the current demographic and economic context.

❑ **quality assurance** in validation and recognition of competences **is crucial in assuring mutual trust , credibility, legitimacy and social recognition.**

Presidencia española de la Unión Europea

MUCHAS GRACIAS