

Introduction by Anusca Ferrari



Anusca gave us a structured overview of the history of validation. The start of thinking on validation was situated in the years 1980 -1990. From the turn of the century, the concept of Lifelong Learning and the need of validation of skills and competences became more and more important in a changing labour market and an acceleration on digitisation.

The economic recession, the banc crises, the refugee crises,... and the political need to respond on this influenced the work on validation. The document 'Recommendations on validation' – the main policy document from 2012 - is followed by the guidelines in 2015 and the inventory in 2018.

After the historical overview, Anusca mentioned the importance of the process of validation, with the 4 steps of identification – Documentation – Assessment – Certification. These steps need to be embedded when thinking of validation.

The new European Commission launches the new skills agenda in 2020, with the emphasis for the need of skills for employability (started in 2016). It keeps the momentum on the European agenda.

Anusca closed her speech saying that Policy Experimentation is one of the best instruments to work with the member states, but that it is not easy to implement. She referred to the new calls, giving the possibility to go on with the research on how to improve these policy experimentation projects.