

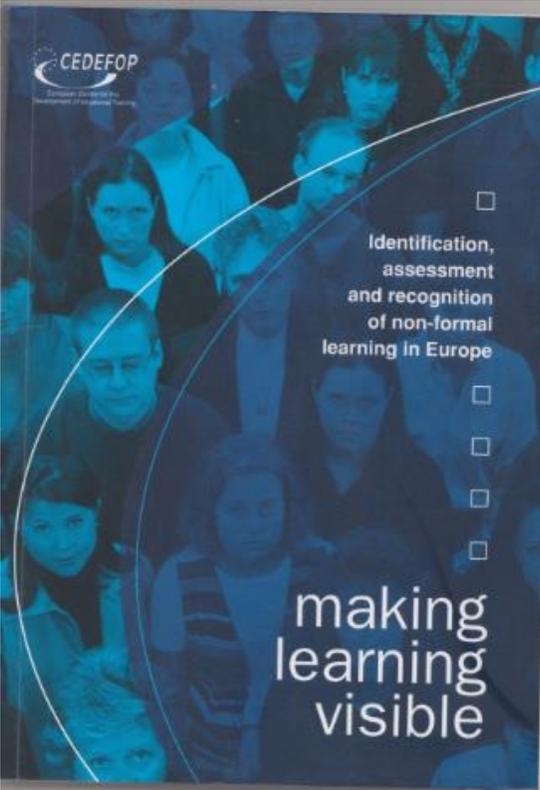
Validation of non-formal and informal learning. A European overview

Ernesto Villalba

Cedefop working on validation for more than 20 years

In **2000** Cedefop published the seminal work: *Making learning visible*

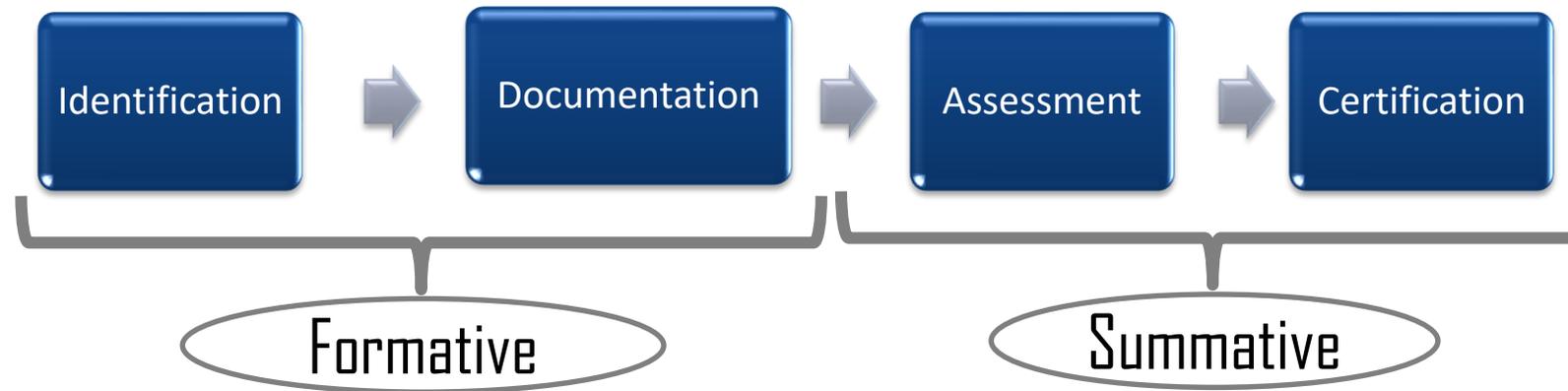
2019 publishing the last inventory



www.cedefop.europa.eu/validation

VALIDATION

Validation means a process of confirmation by an authorised body that an individual has acquired learning outcomes measured against a relevant standard



Terminology differs:

- Prior learning assessment (PLA)
- Recognition of prior learning (RPL)
- Recognition, Validation and Accreditation of non-formal and informal learning (RVA)
- Credit exemptions
- Skills assessment



The fundamental values

1

All learning, irrespective of where and when it takes place, is valuable for the individual and for society.

2

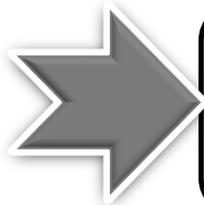
Formal education needs to be complemented by validation of non-formal and informal learning.



Council recommendation 2012: Member States and the Commission

Arrangements in place by 2018

European Qualifications Framework advisory group given the overall control



The Commission should provide support for the implementation

by using the expertise of Union agencies, in particular **Cedefop**, and by reporting on the situation with regard to the validation of non-formal and informal learning in the annual report on the development of National Qualification Frameworks.

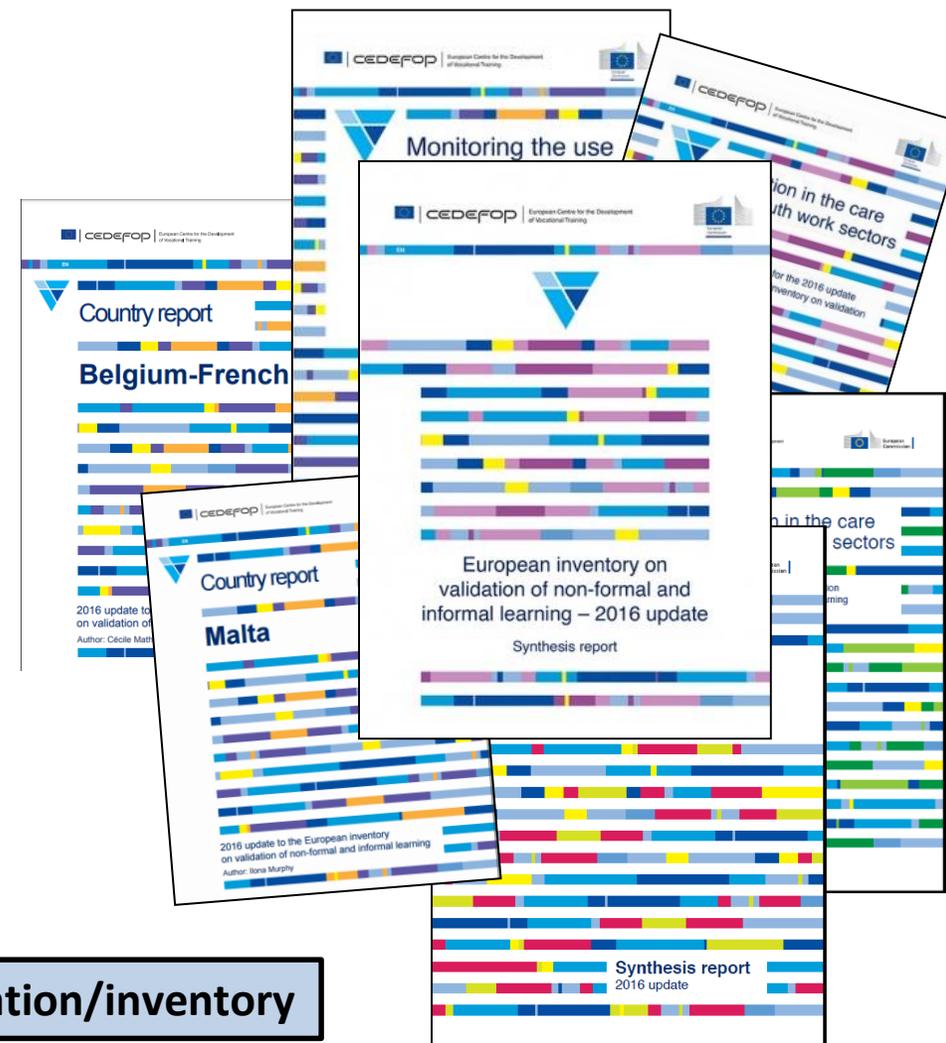
Update Guidelines and Inventory

SWD – Evaluation of the Recommendation 2020



EU inventory - A rich source of information

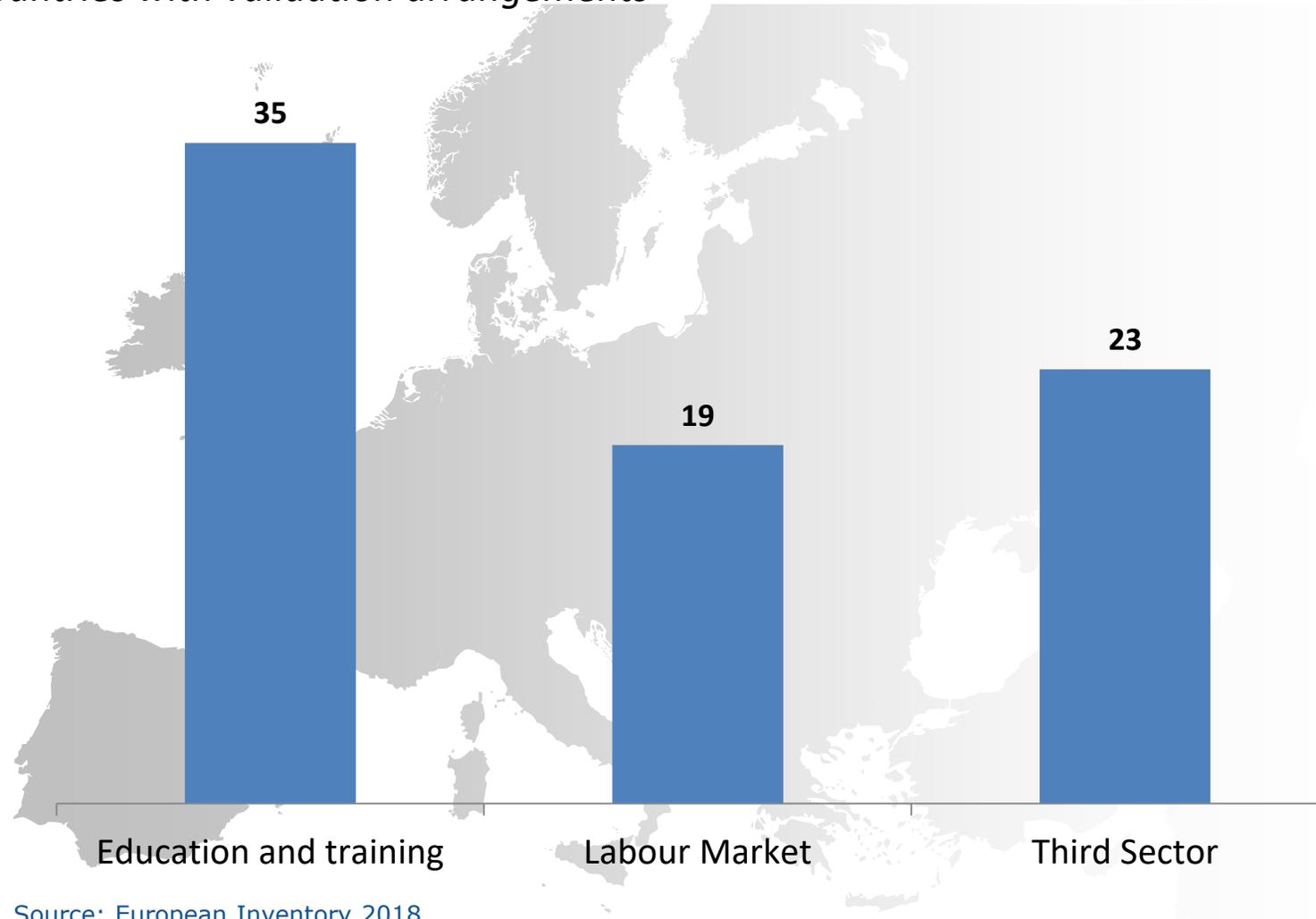
- 2004, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018 editions
- 39 country reports (covering 36 countries)
- Providing detailed information by area
 - ✓ Sub-sector of education
 - General Education
 - IVET
 - CVET
 - Higher education
 - Adult education
 - ✓ Labour market
 - ✓ Third sector
- Thematic studies
- International country cases
- A synthesis of main findings



www.cedefop.europa.eu/validation/inventory

Validation in Europe

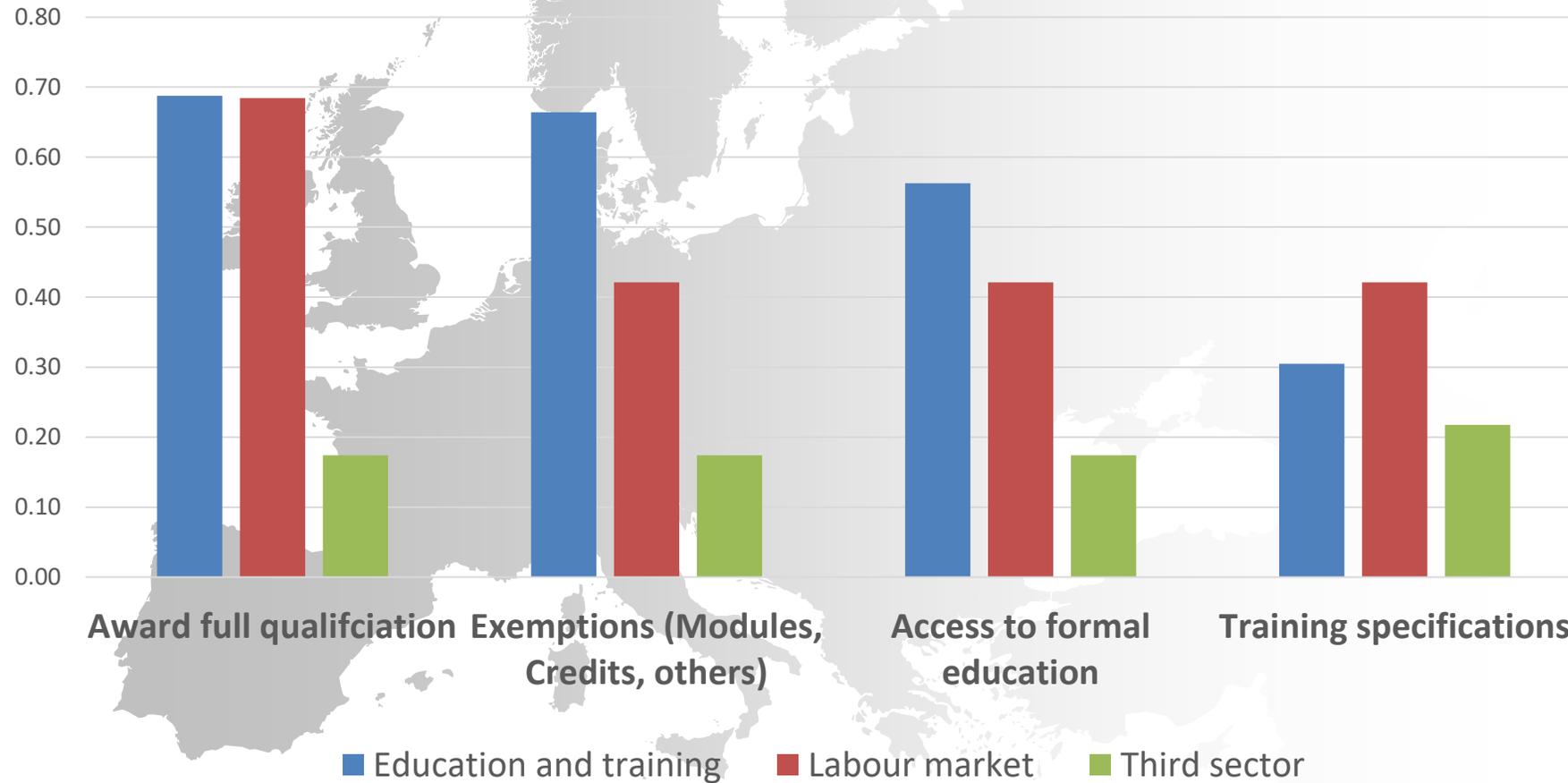
Number of countries with validation arrangements



Source: European Inventory 2018

Validation outcomes – Connection to formal

Cases in which outcomes are possible as a % of the total number of instances in which validation exist

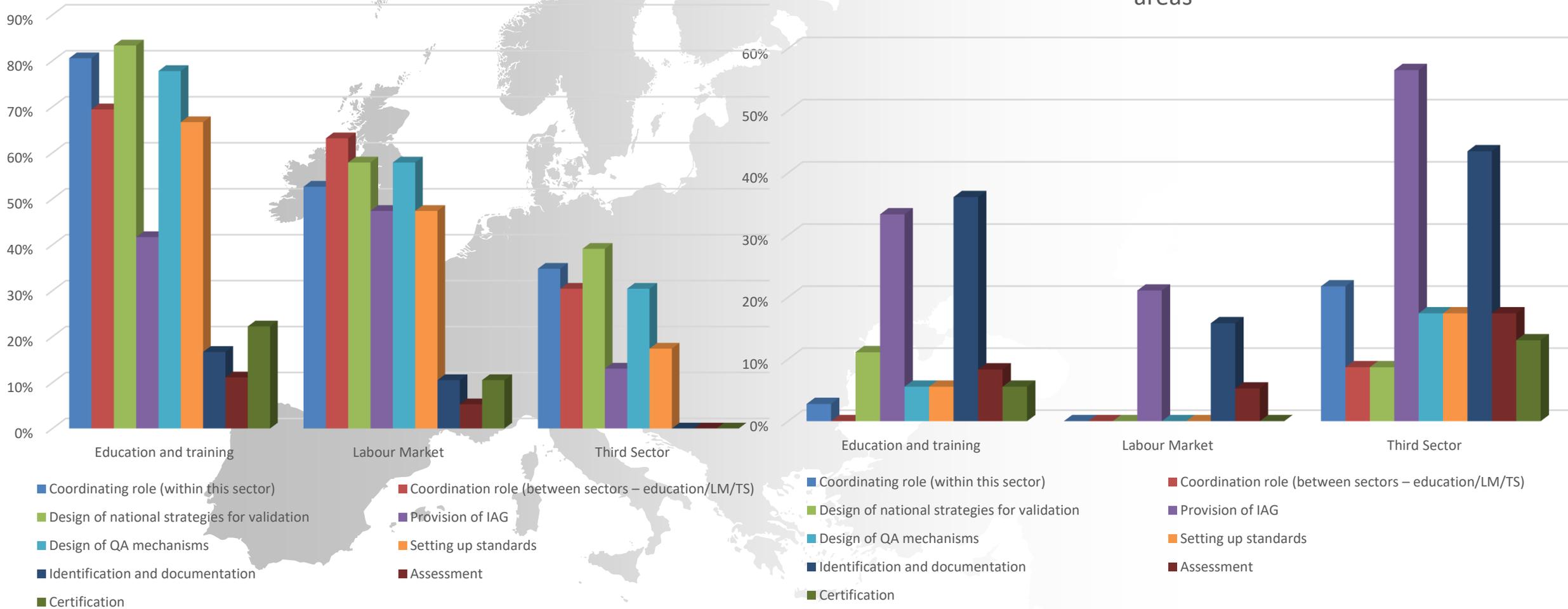


Source: European Inventory 2018

Validation roles

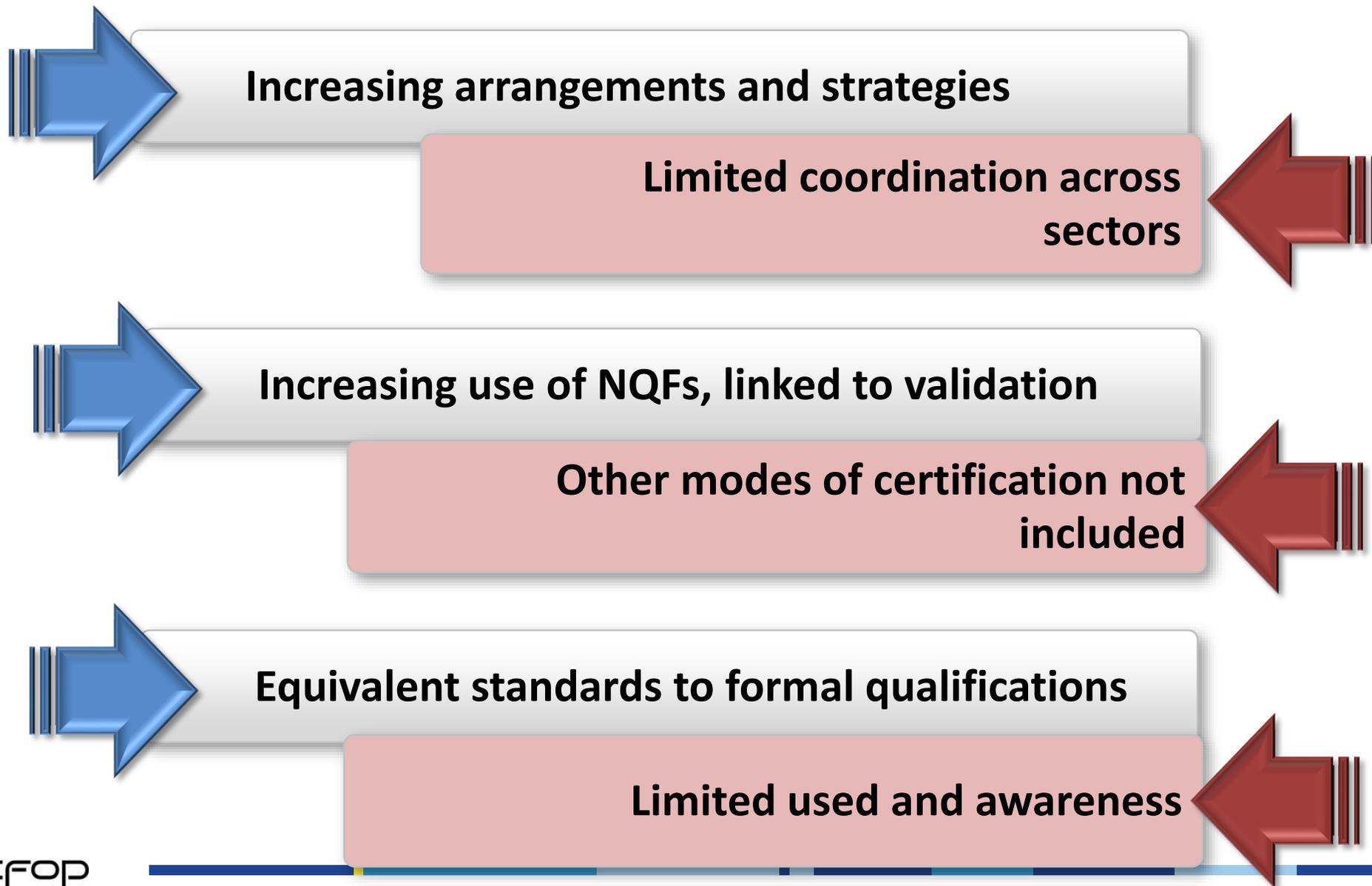
Involvement of the **Government** in the three broad areas

Involvement of the **youth organizations** in the three broad areas



Source: European Inventory 2018

Validation state of play



Evaluation

- All **Member States** have taken action;
- On the whole **more people** have **validation opportunities** and can find better information and **guidance** on validation;
- Wide agreement that in general **validation benefits justify its costs**;
- Wide consensus that the Recommendation is **consistent** with other actions and tools;
- Overall, the Recommendation has had a certain **impact on national action on validation**.

Challenges

- Many people still have no access to validation – no information, not eligible, no means
- Validation arrangements are not comprehensive and not coordinated
- Guidance may not be effective (outreach)
- Need to involve more stakeholders
- Poor information on costs and benefits of validation

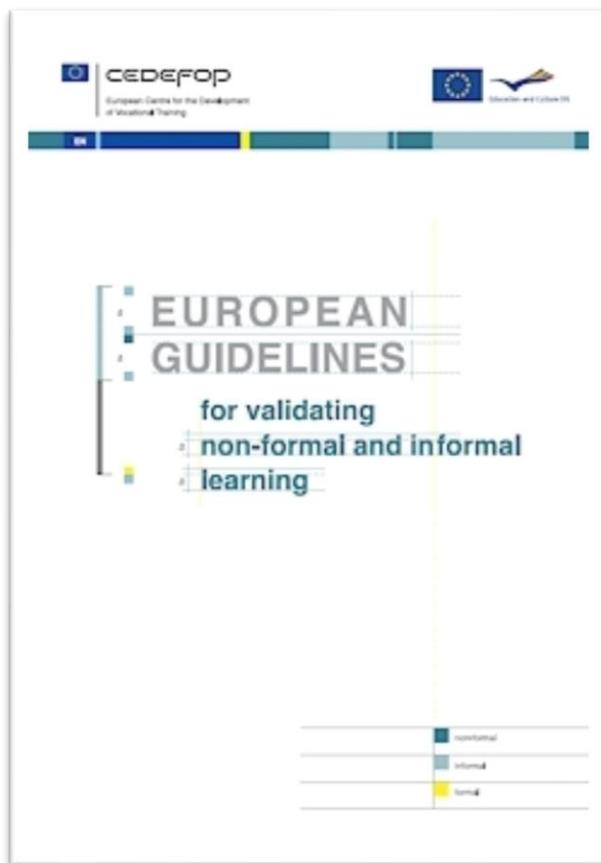
Skills Agenda – new policy cycle

Aiming to : Train more People, train more often, acquire the right skills

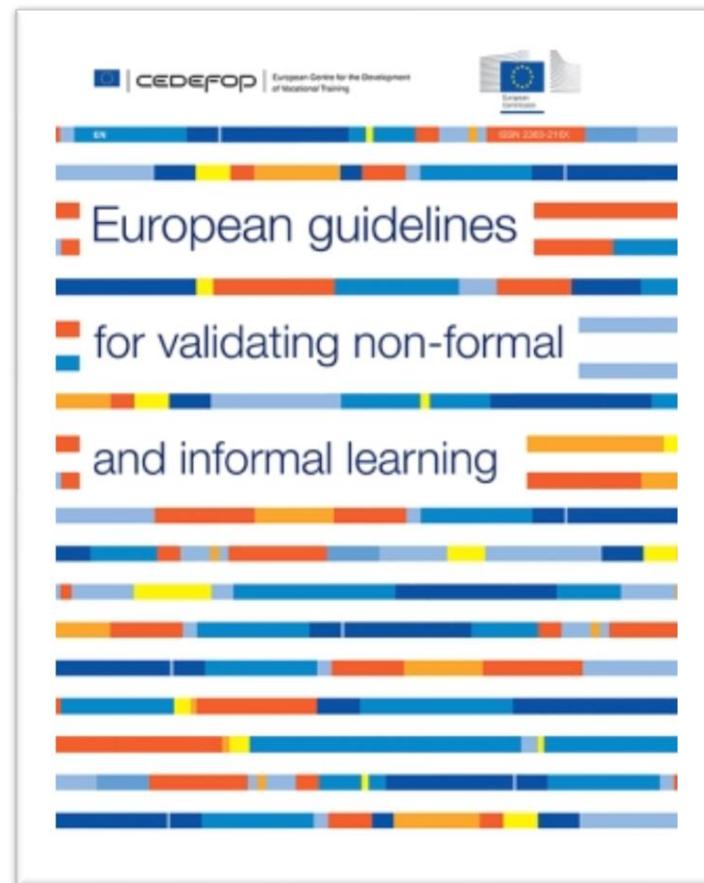
- Collective action
- Defines a clear strategy to ensure that skills are fit for jobs
- Help build their skills throughout life
- Identify the financial means to foster investment
- Set ambitious objectives for up- and reskilling to be achieved within the next 5 years

The future: Updating European Guidelines for validation

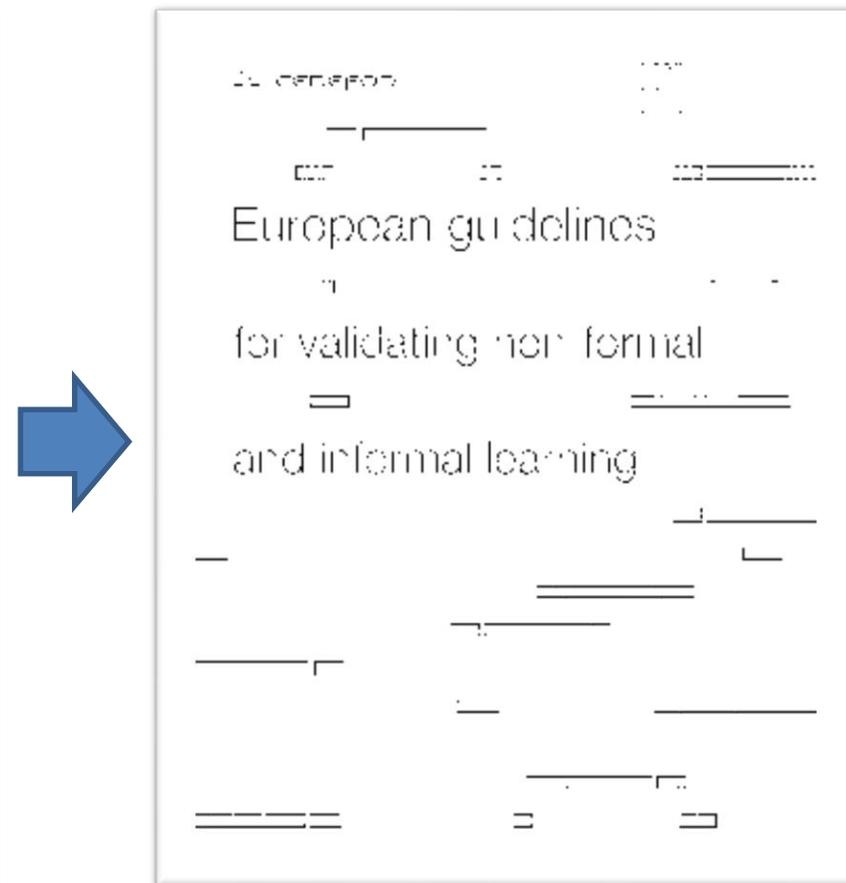
*The ambition and purpose of the guidelines is to **clarify the conditions for implementing validation, highlighting critical choices** to be made by stakeholders at different stages of the process*



They were first published in 2009...



...and updated in 2015



...working in an update by 2022

THANK YOU!



@Cedefop_EU

#ValidationEurope

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/validation>



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