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THE RECOGNITION, VALIDATION AND CERTIFICATION OF KEY COMPETENSES SYSTEM: A NEW WAY OF PROMOTING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP?

We are trying to develop a critical reflection on the ambiguities and paradoxes of the new logics and rhetoric's of adult learning policies and practices in Portugal. Our main research aim is to understand adult educational theory through the case of the Portuguese National System for Recognition, Validation and Certification of key Competences (RVCC) relating it with the political strategies for inclusion of those with lower levels of education. In this RVCC System, adults with more than 18 years old can see the competences they have acquired in every social context certified into a formal educational diploma. The competences that are being recognised and certified are not only formal competences gained through school, but also the ones developed in the everyday life and experience, in the adult's personal or professional life trajectories.

In our present PhD research and as a first result of our fieldwork it seems that the RVCC Centres created in the last five years in Portugal are actually limited as Adult Educational spaces. For instance, we wonder if these new adult education public offers have indeed transformative dimensions for adults? What are the main social outcomes of the RVCC processes? The 9th Adult Educational Colloquium is important for us because the international debates on such issues will enrich the perspectives of our research, helping us to find new analytic trends. On the other hand, it is very important to have access to the mainstream European views on the theme – the individual working groups in the Colloquium will provide such opportunities.

We have choose five points around which the paper for this Colloquium will be structured: 1. The Evolution of the Portuguese Public Adult Education Sub-System. 2. The National Impacts of the European Educational Macro-Politics. 3. Politic motivations to implement the RVCC System in Portugal. 4. Structure and Functioning of the Portuguese RVCC Centres and The Citizenship Area of Key Competences Referential. 5. RVCC Centres: new transformative spaces of Adult Education?