

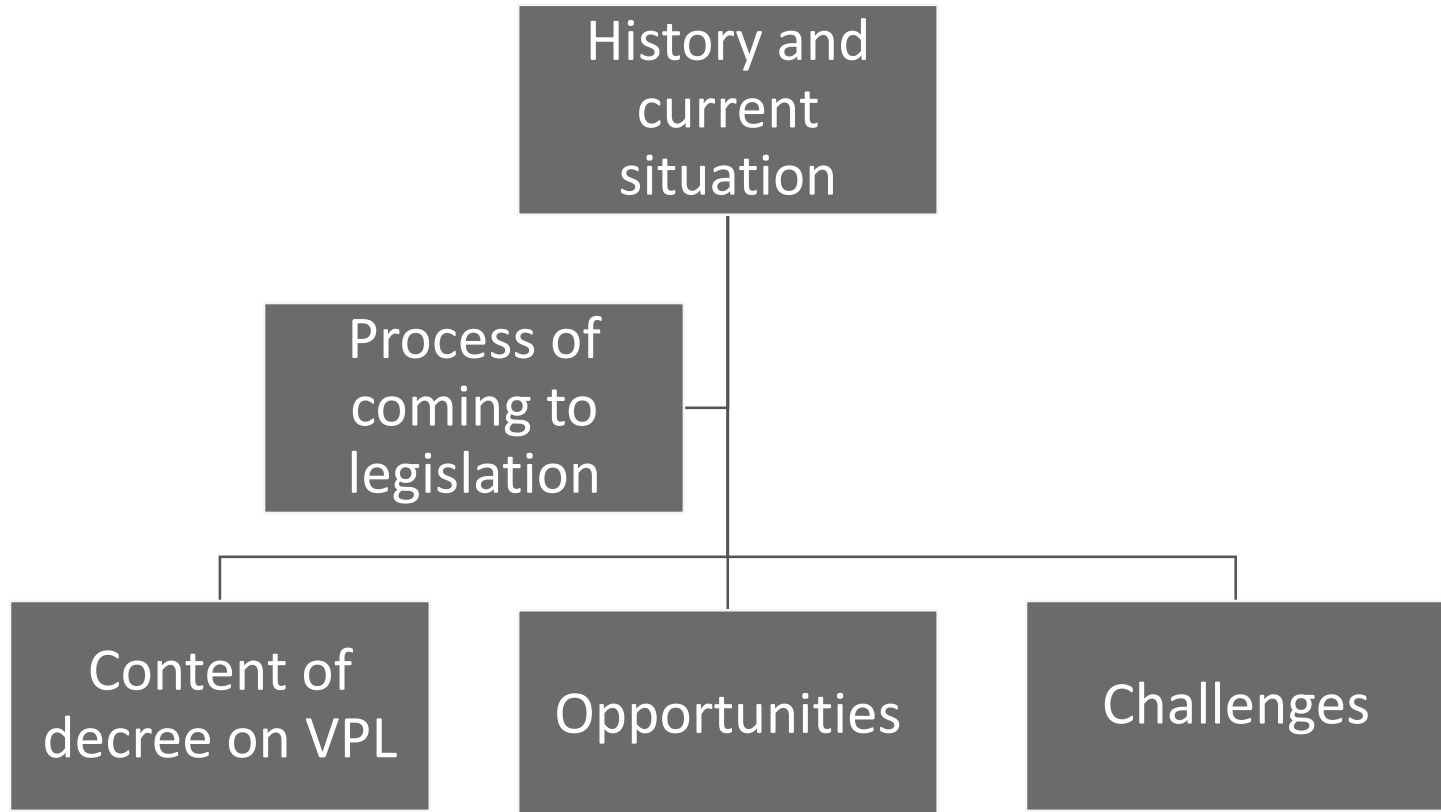
A comprehensive law for VPL in Belgium- Flanders



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Education

Overview



History

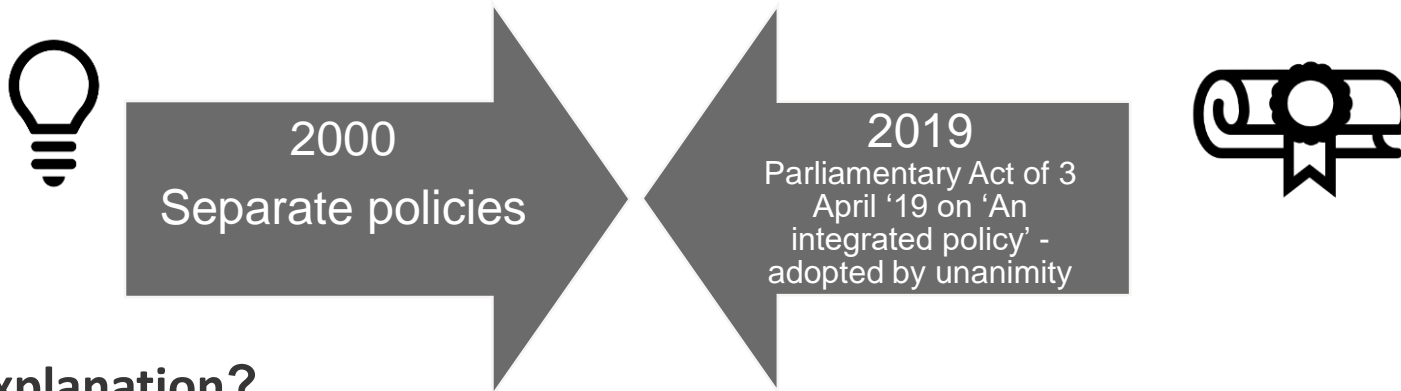
- ▶ 2000: Start of VPL on policy level in BE-Flanders
 - Flemish Government asks advice on VPL
 - 2002: Research report, pilot projects,
 - call for **an integrated approach** across the policy domains
- ▶ however
 - Decrees on Socio-cultural organizations, Youth, Sports: VPL
 - 2004: Decree Work: certificate of work experience
 - 2004: Decree Higher education: VPL part of flexibilization
 - 2007: Decree Adult education – VPL -> exemptions
- ▶ Result: **fragmentation** of policies on VPL

Current situation

Fragmentation between policy domains

- ▶ Low numbers of validation uptake
- ▶ Limited societal impact of validation

Call for an
**integrated
approach**



Explanation?

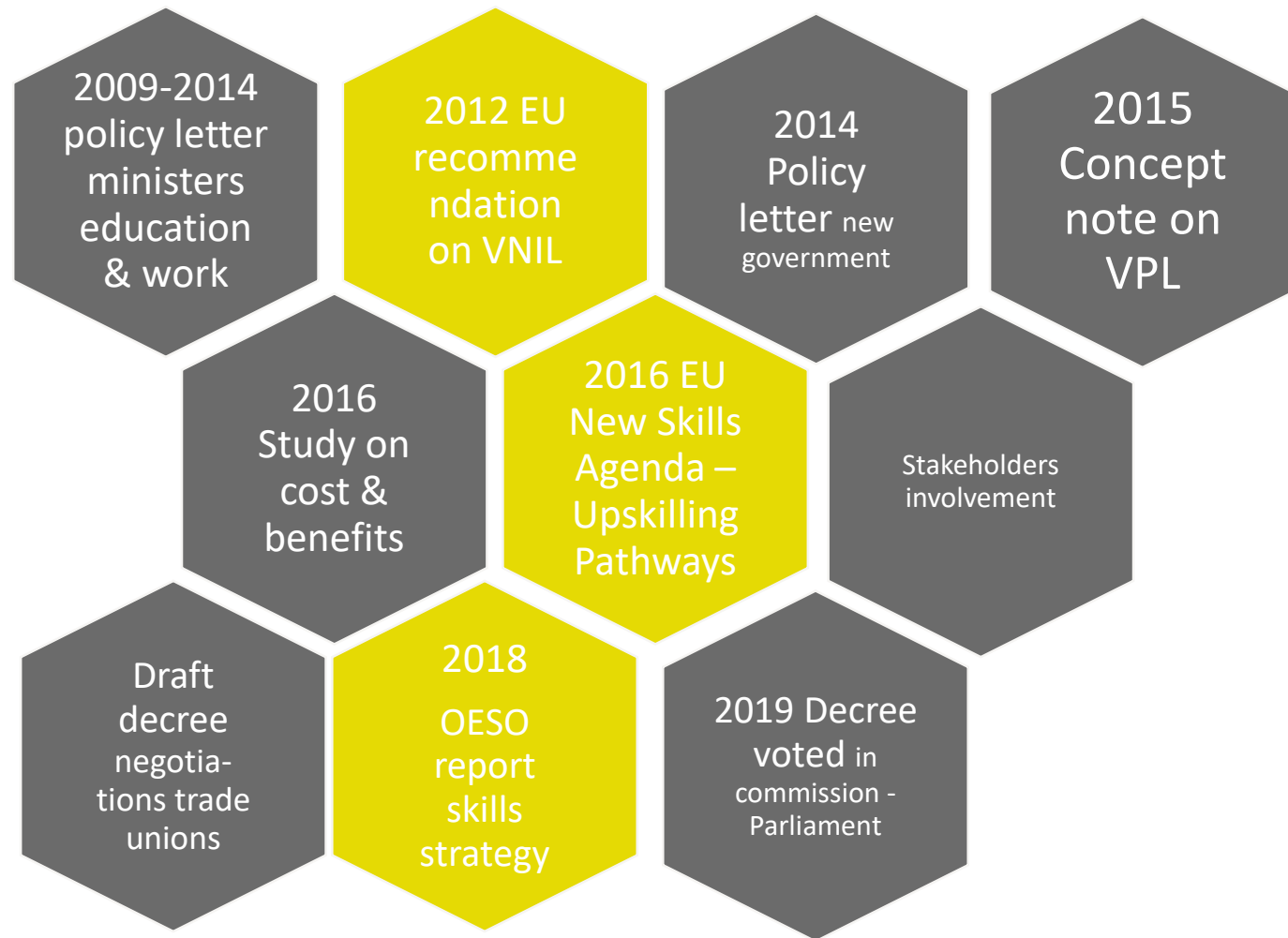
- VPL stayed on the political agenda – national, European
- Acceptance of competency approach
- Availability of a common reference framework (standard)



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→ 2009: NQF – Flemish Qualification Framework

Process of coming to legislation



Content of Parliamentary Act on VPL

- ▶ Definition
 - Identification / documentation – assessment / certification
- ▶ Assessment of competences based on common framework
 - NQF Flemish Qualification Framework
 - Recognized validation bodies (assessment centres)
 - Assessment instruments conform validation standards
- ▶ Certification
 - Full professional qualification (or part), proof of competences
- ▶ Quality assurance
 - Recognition - Quality control

Opportunities

- ▶ One decree for all policy domains > comprehensive
 - Education, work, third sector (culture, youth, sports)
- ▶ One definition for VPL
- ▶ One reference framework: FQF
- ▶ Regulations about quality assurance
 - Standards for validation
 - Common quality framework (inside/outside education)
 - Quality control body every 6 years
- ▶ Procedures and structures
- ▶ Information and guidance

Challenges

- ▶ Implementation has yet to start!
- ▶ Limited to professional (occupational) qualifications
 - educational qualifications?
- ▶ In education: focus on adult education
 - Elaboration to in HE
- ▶ Granting full qualifications versus granting exemptions?
- ▶ Quality control bodies differ according to policy domain
- ▶ Each policy domain is responsible for
 - Recognition
 - financing own validation bodies
- ▶ VPL: an individual right?



Thank you for your attention
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