

# Preface

This edited monograph addresses two central concerns in contemporary concerns about lifelong learning and lifelong education, and which are shared internationally. That is, firstly, the ways in which learning across life is directed towards and supportive of individuals' participation in and the achievement of goals associated with their working lives. At this time, a key imperative for nations, communities, workplaces and individuals is the capacity to secure and sustain employability beyond schooling and initial occupational preparation. The kinds of constant change that occur in work, work requirements, the kinds of occupations that are available and the means of undertaking work necessarily require that individuals are able to continue to learn in ways that sustain their employability through all of these changes. Featured here are accounts from a range of countries that offer conceptualisations, processes and approaches directed towards securing workers' lifelong learning.

Secondly, concerns about the ways in which this ongoing learning can be assessed, recognised and certified are also of concern to a range of countries who are seeking to identify and implement or improve practices that are broadly referred to as the recognition of prior learning. There are often significant equity goals associated with these processes, which like concerns about lifelong education seek to redress shortcomings and disadvantages of individuals' earlier education and work experiences. The perspectives here represent considerations of, approaches to and procedures for the effective recognition of individuals' ongoing learning across adult life.

These two sets of concerns are often correlated and, therefore, stand to be considered and advanced together. The contributions in this edited monograph bring insights from Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States together in one volume. It is the diversity of these contributions that provides comprehension of how these two important issues can be understood and addressed more globally.

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November 2013

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Promoting, Assessing, Recognizing and Certifying  
Lifelong Learning

International Perspectives and Practices

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2014, XIV, 302 p. 9 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-94-017-8693-5