

**European Recognition of Prior Learning Network**

**Updates, issues and expertise**

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| **Area** | **Update/progress** | **Issues and/or expertise** |
| National context and policy | In December 2010 Scottish Government published its Green Paper on the Future of Higher Education (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/12/15125728/0>) along with a consultation for which responses were requested by March 2011. RPL was specifically mentioned in the context of Flexible Admissions. The Scottish HE RPL Network submitted a response. |  |
| Lifelong learning, widening participation, wider access | The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) covers all main-stream educational qualifications from school to PhD.  The company that manages the SCQF, the SCQF Partnership has identified RPL as being an important area of work that supports widening participation in higher education.  Building on work carried out by Ruth Whittaker, the Chair of the HE RPL Network, the SCQF have produced a RPL Toolkit. <http://www.scqf.org.uk/content/files/RPL_Toolkit_FINAL_-_May_2010.pdf>  The Scottish Funding Council are funding 5 regional articulation hubs, led by 5 HEIs with a strong track record in widening participation and progression pathways from college to university. The aim is to strengthen and increase the numbers of college students progressing directly into years 2 and 3 of degree programmes at university and to develop an effective, planned national system of articulation | Expertise: RPL in the context of a national qualification framework.  Formative recognition processes used within the context of workforce development; community learning and development and careers guidance, supported by toolkits- resources for learners and mentors/advisors  Models of articulation ( credit transfer from Higher National Qualifications at colleges to enable advanced standing in degree programmes; including effective models of transition support; collaborative delivery models ( colleges and universities) ; strategic and operational subject level university-college partnerships |
| Flexible learning paths | See above |  |
| Engagement with employers and workforce development | QAA Scotland manages a Work-Based-Learning Forum which aims to develop and enhance practice in WBL across the Scottish higher education sector. WBL is defined in this context as being learning that is undertaken at or through work. This has links to workforce development. The Forum will also aim to engage employers proactively as part of its work.  RPL has been identified as being a key process in WBL and joint work between the Forum and the Network will be undertaken.  A proposal for EU LLP : USERPL: to explore use and impact of RPL within context of workforce development; development of evidence base; typology and guidelines has been submitted by Glasgow Caledonian University. European partners: Scotland; Finland; Estonia; Latvia; Germany; Turkey; Spain; Belgium. Assocaited partners inc European RPL Network; QAA Scotland and SCQFP.  QAA Scotland is also one of the management partners of the Scottish Higher Education Employability Forum along with our main funding body (the Scottish Funding Council), the Universities and the Higher Education Academy. This is a strategic alliance which brings the main developmental and policy agencies together. | Issues: Developing meaningful and sustainable engagement with employers |
| RPL processes and procedures – designing RPL programmes and innovative developments | Scoping RPL support and assessment mechanisms within Scottish sector and beyond to support the development of guidelines for streamlining RPL support and assessment for the Scottish HE sector- this work is being undertaken as part of the agreed workplan for the Scottish Universities RPL Network  QAA Scotland will be managing on behalf of the sector, the new Enhancement Theme: “Developing and Supporting the Curriculum”. This may involve work in RPL supporting flexible higher education curricula. | Issues arising- monitoring use and impact of RPL; tracking successful RPL claimants; use of technology to support RPL support and assessment |
| Student experiences of RPL across Bologna countries | European RPL Network been included as Associated partner in LLP proposal to investigate use and impact of RPL on the learner and organization in relation to workforce development . In Scotland this issue will be addressed within the context of the Social Services sector. | Issue- need to develop better evidence base regarding student experiences of RPL to enhance practice and understand impact |
| Building assessment capacity and capability for RPL | Ruth Whittaker, on behalf of the HE RPL Network and QAA Scotland, has commenced work on development of guidelines for streamlining RPL support and assessment based on case studies and best practice | Interested in working with ERPL Network members on this issue |

Topics of interest for the first RPL Network meeting in Glasgow, November the 5th

