

Swedish EHEA-reform projects, 2014-18

1. The Academic Value of Mobility

Contact person: Anders Ahlstrand, Swedish Council for Higher Education

Main ideas: Long term goal to increase the number of outgoing students, to increase the quality in mobility and to reach new target groups for mobility by highlighting the academic value of mobility. Wanted to change the focus when talking about mobility from talking about where to go into a discussion about why and what for?

Partners: Bologna experts, 7 HEIs testing recommendations from the project. Informal cooperation with UK and Irish EHEA-projects which had focus on mobility for underrepresented groups.

Highlights: Recommendations following two lines; Internationalisation should be reflected in the curriculum and mobility guidance should be incorporated in regular study and career guidance. Tested by pilots at 7 HEIs. Results from pilots show that cooperation between different staff categories within the HEI is imperative to succeed. Indications that the implemented new ways of working lead to increased mobility but the test period was too short to give definite answers.

Lessons learnt: Work closely with HEIs, involve different staff categories within the HEIs. Strengthen study guidance. Look for inspiration and cooperation outside your country.

Impact: New ways of working implemented at the seven pilots. Other HEIs have showed great interest in the experiences of the pilot institutions. People involved in the project have disseminated the results on numerous seminars. The commission of inquiry on increased internationalisation of higher education institutions appointed by the Swedish government showed interest in the project and some of the results of the project are present in the first report of the Inquiry.

Report from the project: <https://www.uhr.se/publikationer/Rapporter/rapport-det-akademiska-vardet-av-mobilitet/>



2. Conference: Refugees' impact on Bologna reform – Recognition of Prior Learning and inclusion in the light of increased migration

Contact person: Anders Ahlstrand, Swedish Council for Higher Education

Main ideas: RPL for admission and credits is important in order to stimulate Lifelong learning and alternative learning paths. The large number of refugees in 2015 made this even more obvious.

Partners: Conference arranged within the framework of the Bologna Working Group 2 (WG2) on Implementation. The conference was planned and executed in cooperation with the Swedish ENIC-NARIC office, Malmö University and informal cooperation with the special working group for refugee issues at the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions.

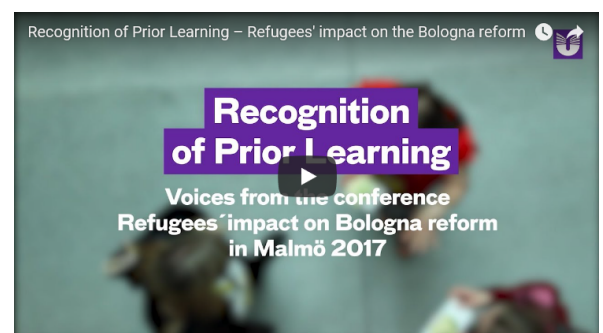
Highlights: Conference offered opportunities for peer learning, within the EHEA, on procedures and methods for RPL. Stakeholders presented policies and practical examples of RPL. Some countries have well established systems in place, and others have adjusted laws and regulations to adapt to the situation and to increase the possibilities for access to higher education for new and wider groups. The conference concluded that there are still many things to be done, and that there are big differences in implementation of RPL structures and legal frameworks allowing alternative paths to Higher Education between countries in the EHEA.

Lessons learnt: The conference showed a gap between policy and practice in many countries. The issue of quality and consistency in the validation process is a key factor, which stressed the importance of clear routines for RPL at HEIs. Funding of RPL processes, and to give incentives for HEI faculty and staff to prioritise the task was highlighted. There is a need for continuous guidance and counselling to the individual throughout the RPL process. There is also a lack of monitoring of what is happening at institutional level, and a need for exchange and discussion of practices among HEI staff; faculty, student counsellors and admission officers.

There is a need for peer learning among EHEA countries.

Impact: Results of the conference was incorporated in the report of WG2. In Sweden the results of the conference has given input to a national project concerning RPL.

Programme, conference report and thoughts about RPL from the conference:



<https://www.uhr.se/om-uhr/Konferenser/genomforda-konferenser/refugees-impact-on-bologna-reform/>