

Dear Reader,

welcome to the first Newsletter of the “URPL: University Recognition of Prior Learning Centres – Bridging Higher Education with Vocational Education” funded by the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme. The Newsletter aims to keep you up to date with the progress of the project and in particular its results. In this issue we introduce the project aims, project partners and update you on the activities that have taken place within the project thus far.

Project summary

Rationale and background

Importance of achieving LLL objectives in Europe is highlighted in many policy papers. This has been reflected in national efforts across EU to adapt or to create their national qualification frameworks (NQF) and prepare its practical use and implementation. However, use of new opportunities linked to NQF, in particular it's potential linked to formal recognition of non-and informal learning requires cultural change, practical tools and knowledge. This project provides unique opportunity for transfer of knowledge from a country with an established process of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to countries currently developing or at an early stage of implementing their NQFs.

Aims and results

The goal of the project is to contribute to the development of the recognition of prior learning by providing insight to procedural, formal, legal, as well as cultural foundations for implementation of recognition of prior learning in the context of higher education, with a particular focus on universities. Therefore, the project aims to

1. transfer knowledge and experience in implementation and exploitation of EQF/equivalent NQFs from countries with established frameworks to those initiating this process;
2. contribute to the development of procedural, formal, legal, cultural foundations for implementation of RPL process;
3. elaborate guidelines and recommendations for policy makers and other stakeholders regarding implementation of RPL.

The project will lead to the (1) establishment of formal, procedural and

University Recognition of Prior Learning Centres - Bridging Higher Education with Vocational Education and Training

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cultural foundations for an RPL process in Poland; (2) creation of guidelines for implementation of RPL process in countries introducing qualification frameworks, Poland and Croatia.

Project partners

The lead partner of the project is the [Jagiellonian University](#) from Poland. The Jagiellonian University is the second oldest University in Central Europe. It enjoys high esteem and prestige as an educational and research institution. It has more than 7000 employees, and almost 50000 students. LLL is vividly present in the University through participation and coordination of numerous LLL programmes. Moreover, the University promotes non-formal education through *Wszechnica* and CESPIA-centres providing various courses and programmes out of scope of formal education. The University having humanistic- life sciences profile is strongly interested in introducing and thus widening the offer available to its students as well as external stakeholders, hence building even stronger links with the professional world.

[Edinburgh Napier University Centre for Credit Rating, Scotland](#), through its involvement in the creation of the Scottish national Credit and Qualification Framework, as well as their role in developing national and university RPL procedures is well aware of the challenges faced in the developing and implementing NQF.

[Paris 12 University, France](#), is a leading institution in research in the areas of professional training, recognition of skills and informal qualifications with vast experience in comparative research in France, Europe and Latin America. It will contribute to the project by providing an objective critical insight into RPL feasibility studies and implementation.

[The Institute for the Development of Education, Croatia](#), is a non governmental organization which aims to contribute to the development of higher education policy, provides expert support to institutions, connects domestic and international experts and enables individuals in Croatia and the region to achieve their educational goals.

News

Study visit to Scotland

During study visit in Scotland in March 2012 project team members visited the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership, organization which promotes lifelong learning in Scotland. URPL project team members visited also the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) located in Glasgow. We also had a chance to meet with HR department employees at the Registers of Scotland, who presented us their RPL case study.

Also, project team met Edinburgh Napier University School of

Marketing, Tourism and Languages RPL Coordinator, who presented us RPL procedures for individuals implemented at ENU.

Program of the meetings allowed us to fully understand the RPL process, both for individuals and for organizations.

International Conference on RPL in Paris

Between 30th November and 2nd December 2011 project team members took part in international scientific conference in Paris "Institutionalization and internationalization of the devices of recognition and accreditation of prior and experiential learning (RVEA), vector of renewal of the relations between universe of education and work?", which was organized by Universite Paris Est Creteil, one of the project partners.

Conference papers explored the topic of RPL in different countries in the World – presenting main problems of RPL implementation, stakeholders involvement issues and future directions of RPL development.

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