

*Bologna Seminar Amsterdam*  
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## **DIT Strategy for Implementing National RPL Principles and Operational Guidelines**



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# Stages in Policy Development and Implementation

## 1

- 1. Recruitment of RPL Policy Development Officer for one year, later extended to two (September 2007)**
- 2. Consultation across Faculties and other functions**
- 3. Outcomes available on shared-drive internally**
- 4. Draft RPL policy document to Academic Council May 2008**
- 5. Final policy document approved June 2008**
- 6. Implementation Guide provided for Faculties/Schools in relation to national principles and operational guidelines September 2008**

# Stages in Policy Development and Implementation

## 2

7. **Conceptual Guide in preparation**
8. **Web-page in preparation**
9. **Briefings, consultancy and workshops provided on demand**
10. **CPD course on RPL developed for staff**
11. ***Assessment Regulations and Quality Enhancement Handbooks* in process of augmentation/revision**
12. **Information in preparation for Recruitment and Admissions Office**
13. **RPL 'module' for applicants drafted. (VISUALS)**

# Unexpected Challenges

- “ Conceptual understandings and traditional practices . take care not to unsettle confidence in existing practice
- “ Software package BANNER for recording assessments and RPL data rather cumbersome
- “ The Electronic Gradebook rather rigid for RPL
- “ Scale of non-Irish awards seeking recognition unexpected
- “ Scale of experiential learning likely to be presented unknown.

# Advantages

- “ Track record of RPL/APEL projects with scholarship and credibility = trust and confidence
- “ Positive attitude and culture – liberal tradition
- “ Arrival of the National Qualification Framework with *level descriptors*
- “ NARIC, Qualifax and [www.qualificationsrecognition.ie](http://www.qualificationsrecognition.ie)
- “ Existing access, transfer and progression arrangements
- “ National principles and operational guidelines
- “ Modules and learning outcomes
- “ High level of professional development opportunities for staff.

# Documents available to workshop

- “ **National Principles and Operational Guidelines**
- “ **Guide for Faculty in relation to above**
- “ **RPL policy document**
- “ **Visuals**
- “ **Webpage**
- “ **RPL initial self-assessment for public use**
- “ **Module-level RPL for exemptions – worked exemplars**
- “ **CPD course in RPL for staff.**

# Key Tips

1. Policy framework essential
2. Link local policy to existing practices including quality assurance
3. Gain trust and confidence of colleagues
4. Embed RPL in the normal business of the organisation, including programme design and links with the external world
5. Develop extensive vision of RPL
6. Review and revisit policy - be responsive.