

Recognition of Prior Learning

'Assessment & Accreditation, Quality Assurance and Implementation of Procedures'

BOLOGNA-SEMINAR – AMSTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS

11-12 December 2008

Newsletter 1 - August 2008

The Bologna Seminar on Recognition of Prior Learning, Quality Assurance and the Implementation of Procedures (in Higher Education) will be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, December 11 and 12, 2008. This seminar will be hosted by the Dutch Government and is organized in cooperation with the BFUG Coordination Group for LLL, EURASHE, EUA and ESU.

Why a seminar about Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)?

The seminar gives the possibility to exchange experiences with RPL and QA, and the position of these instruments in Lifelong Learning processes and the national higher education areas. In view of Lifelong Learning RPL is more and more used for the determination of levels, not only for (the learning outcomes of) programmes in formal learning, but also in in-formal and non-formal learning. The aspects of quality assurance and implementation of the procedures in the higher education institutions are crucial elements in this.

Assessment of obtained competences and their use for the composition of flexible learning paths will be essential in the design of modern higher education. This will give more people the right chances to gain a (better) job and provides employers with better possibilities to use the higher skills of their employees for innovative developments in their companies, enterprises and organizations.

Themes of the seminar

The main themes of the seminar are:

1. The role of a government in promoting RPL, in cooperation with other stakeholders like the employers' organisations, the (organisations of) Higher Education Institutions and other networks . at the same time making an inventory of the most relevant and effective instruments.
2. RPL and quality assurance, also in relation to their importance for stakeholders at national, institutional and individual level considering respective responsibilities.
3. The way HEIs and other organisations in higher education are dealing with RPL and are implementing and developing effective procedures.
4. Quality Codes (and principles) for RPL procedures, in national context but also in view of possible added value in a European context of cooperation regarding RPL and QA
5. RPL and costs and benefits in relation to all stakeholders.

Structure of the programme

The preliminary set up of the programme is as follows:

Thursday morning:

- Opening and presentations in general about the Bologna Process, LLL, RPL and QA.
- Presentations and workshops on the situation in the Netherlands, including current developments on themes like: the role of the government, the Dutch Quality Code for RPL, instruments used by the government and other organisations to promote RPL, rules and regulations and RPL, the way in which higher education institutions are offering RPL-procedures, the business-higher education cooperation, et cetera. Information will be given about the effects of the policy that is being used in the Netherlands in the last years, and . as an important aspect . why certain measures were taken in specific situations.

Thursday afternoon:

- Presentations and workshops on the situation in five or six other countries, to get a good idea about the different and common aspects in those countries, comparing with the Dutch RPL

Strategy. Important will be why some aspects are different in those countries and to learn from each other about the effectiveness of the policy of a government, RPL-Knowledge Centres and other organizations involved in RPL, QA and the way HEIs are using RPL.

- The workshops will be providing the possibility to look at the most significant differences and to get an idea why those aspects are not (always) the same; in this way the workshops can be a good opportunity to talk about the possibilities for a common Quality Code for RPL

Friday morning:

- Presentations from a European perspective on RPL and QA, looking at the Bologna Process and the ideas concerning Lifelong Learning, from the side of the organizations EUA (Charter), EURASHE, ESU and the European Commission (.
- Presentation on International recognition of RPL (NARIC study on recognition of non-formal and informal learning).
- Forum discussion on common principles and an international RPL Quality Code.
- Plenary discussion on RPL, QA and Implementation of Procedures in the future.

Friday afternoon:

- Visit to a company in Amsterdam, for a presentation on their RPL-strategy as a HRM-tool, including a discussion about the role of RPL for the labour market and the employers.

Organization and venue

- The venue is Hogeschool INHolland - University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam-Diemen.
- The seminar starts on Thursday 11 December, at 9.45 hours and ends on Friday 12 December, at 16.00 hours.
- Participants are expected to arrive Wednesday 10 December.
- The hotels in which reservations are made for the seminar are situated in the Centre of Amsterdam. From there, the venue is easy accessible by public transport. It takes ca 20 minutes and tickets need to be bought individually before entering the metro.
- Registration is free of charge. The costs for travelling, accommodation and personal activities are not included and need be paid by the participants themselves.
- If wished, ideas can be provided for spending the weekend, in case people like to stay on in Amsterdam.

Participants

The seminar will be organized as a workshop. It offers opportunities to experts from different countries and organisations to exchange and discuss their experience regarding RPL, including aspects of QA and the position of RPL in Lifelong Learning processes within the national context and the European higher education area.

The seminar will be open for representatives of governments, ministries and RPL Knowledge Centres, RPL officers in higher education institutions, RPL and QA agency staff, Bologna Promoters, employers and researchers working on higher education or RPL, representatives of student bodies, other RPL experts and the Bologna Follow-Up Group and partners.

Registration

There are limited places in the seminar. Representatives from as many countries and organisations as possible, involved in the Bologna Process, will be given the chance to participate. The next newsletter will be published on the Bologna Website and on the Seminar Website on the 23rd of September. It includes further news and rules for the registration and the administration procedure. If you wish to receive the second newsletter personally by email, please send a message with your name, organisation and function to info@leido.nl.

Website for the seminar

From the 23rd of September onward actual information on the seminar can be found on the following website: www.dashe.nl/events/bologna/rpl.html. All kinds of relevant and interesting documents and reports about RPL, QA et cetera can be found on this website.