

Making Fewer Strangers: Networking Networks

One of our *PLAIO* goals is to create and nourish an international community of those interested in the assessment of prior learning in all of its many forms. Beginning here, and to be included in all future issues of our journal, we gather “networks” that exist and to which we can turn for information and connections with others in this field. We begin with networks that were represented at the 5th Biennale upon which this special issue of *PLAIO* focuses. If you have a PLA-related network that should be added to our list-in-process, please let us know. Thanks to many colleagues who provided the following information and to Andrina Wafer for her invaluable insights on many of these networks.

Please send your information, edits, or any updates to: Alexa.Collesides@SUNYEmpire.edu.

Network or Organization	Links and Connections
Australia: RPL Network	The only Australian RPL Network is “RPL Matters.” a subscription-based network; details can be found on the Skills Education website https://www.skillseducation.com.au/bundles/rpl-matters .
Australia: ePortfolios Australia	https://eportfoliosaustralia.wordpress.com/ Allison Miller < eportfoliosaustralia@gmail.com >
Austria: RPL Network Austria	RPL Network Austria: https://www.aq.ac.at/en/recognition/rpl-network-austria.php and https://www.linkedin.com/company/rpl-network-austria/ Witzani Agnes < Agnes.Witzani@aq.ac.at > Schorm Andrea Andrea.Schorm@aq.ac.at

Network or Organization	Links and Connections
Canada: Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA)	CAPLA info@capla.ca https://capla.ca/ Andy Brown, Chair and Interim Executive Director, abrown@crcmail.net
Canada: Manitoba Prior Learning Action Network (MPLAN)	mplan.board@gmail.com MPLAN , Manitoba Prior Learning Action Network The province of Manitoba's RPL/PLAR association Colin Russell, Chair, c.russell@uwinnipeg.ca https://mbplar.ca/home/
Canada: British Columbia Prior Learning Action Network (BCPLAN)	BCPLAN The province of British Columbia's RPL/PLAR association Nicole Borhaven, Co-Chair, Nborhaven@tru.ca Justine Arsenault, Co-Chair, justine_arsenault@bcit.ca https://bcplan.ca/
France: Association Reconnaître	Open Recognition Alliance 3 esplanade Stéphane Hessel Caen 14000 France secretariat@openrecognition.org Open Recognition Alliance
Finland: Ammattiosaamisen kehittämissyhdystys AMKE ry	Peter Pahlman, Advisor peter.pahlman@amke.fi

Network or Organization	Links and Connections
Germany: The German Rectors' Conference (HRK)	modus@hrk.de
Globedu	Anni Karttunen, senior specialist in Education Policy; https://globedu.fi/
Ireland: Higher Education Lifelong Learning Ireland Network for listing (HELLIN)	www.hellin.ie Neil Quinlan neil.quinlan@setu.ie
Iceland: Cooperative network on adult learning	Fjóla María Lárusdóttir (fjola@frae.is) and Haukur Harðarson (haukur@frae.is) Coordinated by the Education and Training Service Center (ETSC). Partners: 14 regional lifelong learning centers. www.frae.is
Ireland: The RPL Practitioner Network (Ireland)	RPL Practitioners Network Ireland https://rpl-ireland.ie/ X@rpl_network LinkedIn: RPL Practitioner Network Ireland Group page
Ireland: Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) Recognition of Prior Learning Further Education and Training (FET) Network	ETBI – Representing ETBs Network Co-Chairs: Fergus Craddock fergus.craddock@etbi.ie Siobhan Murray siobhanmurray@dletb.ie
Ireland: National Recognition of Prior Learning in Higher Education Project	Ciara Staunton + 353 1 708 2900 +353 86-1036302 ciara.staunton@thea.ie www.thea.ie www.priorlearning.ie @RPL_Irl
Italy: Networks for Quality Adult Learning – Community of Practice marchetta@azione.com	Involved country: Italy, Portugal, Slovakia Chiara Marchetta, marchetta@azione.com https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/networks-for-quality-adult-learning/ https://www.adult-learning.eu/en/

Network or Organization	Links and Connections
Malta:	gaetano.calleja@mfhea.mt www.mfhea.mt
Nordic Network: Nordic Expert Network for Validation	https://nvl.org/netvaerk/validering/ Coordinator Anna Nygård Anna.Nygard@skolverket.se
Pan European, European RPL Network	https://www.aq.ac.at/en/recognition/european-rpl-network.php and https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-rpl-network/ Agnes Witzani < Agnes.Witzani@aq.ac.at
Pan European	Lifelong Learning Platform Civil Society policy@llplatfotm.eu
Portugal: A Associação Portuguesa de Educação e Formação de Adultos – Apendências (APEFA)	APEFA Apendências Armando Gomes Loureiro apefa.aprendencias@apefa.org Maria moveup.apefa@gmail.com
United States: Prior Learning Assessment Network (PLAN)	Informal group of practitioners across the country (free) Melissa DeBlois (mbd06130@ccv.vsc.edu) https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14343723/ (or search for Prior Learning Assessment Network)
Scotland: Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF)	Marissa Lippiatt M.Lippiatt@scqf.org.uk Fiona Garry f.garry@scqf.org.uk Head of Development and Engagement Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership 201 West George Street

Network or Organization	Links and Connections
	Glasgow Tel: 0141 225 2925 Mobile: 07825 054990 www.scqf.org.uk
Slovakia: The Association of Adult Education Institutions in Slovak Republic (AIVD SR)	AIVD SR Klaudius Silhar - prezident@aivd.sk Mgr. Klaudius Šilhár, PhD. Asociácia inštitúcií vzdelávania dospelých v SR Baštová 7, 811 03 Bratislava, Slovakia +421 907 833 748 prezident@aivd.sk www.aivd.sk https://ralexila.eu/aivd/
South Africa: South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)	RPL Networks in SA Makhapa Makhafola (MMakhafola@saqa.org.za), Heidi Bolton (HBolton@saqa.org.za), Nkosingiphile Nyalungu (NNyalungu@saqa.org.za), Navin Vasudev (NVasudev@saqa.org.za) Council on Higher Education (CHE) – Whitfield Green (Green.W@che.ac.za); Phumzile Dlamini (Dlamini.P@che.ac.za) • Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) – Vijayen Naidoo (Naidoo.V@qcto.org.za), Marco Macfarlane (Macfarlane.M@qcto.org.za), Colette Tennison (Tennison.C@qcto.org.za) • University of South Africa (UNISA) – Mutambuli Hadji (hadjimj@unisa.ac.za) • University of the Western Cape (UWC) – Rekha Rambharose (RRambharose@uwc.ac.za)

Network or Organization	Links and Connections
	• Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) – Frederika De Graaff (DegraaffF@cput.ac.za) • Association of Private Providers of Education and Training (APPETD) – Shirley Lloyd (shirleylloyd41@gmail.com)
Sweden:	Pernilla Hultberg < pernilla.hultberg@gu.se https://www.gu.se/en/about-the-university/widening-access-and-participation
Ukraine: Qualifications Recognition Support for Ukrainian Universities (QUARSU)	Ukrainian RPL Network https://quarsu.nltu.edu.ua/en Marek Frankowicz Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland QUARSU Coordinator marek.frankowicz@gmail.com
United States: Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)	Members only network (for a fee) www.cael.org
United States: Open Recognition is for Everybody	supported by Participate.com in the US https://badges.community/ Laura Hilliger laura@weareopen.coop

General note:

- The ENIC NARIC Network has Country Profile pages with links for all jurisdictions under the Lisbon Recognition Convention, not necessarily directly for VPL, but for relevant Institutions <https://www.enic-naric.net>.
- CEDEFOP and the European Commission publish Country Inventories and Thematic Inventories for countries of the European Union and Neighbourhood Countries on a biannual basis reflecting progress implementing the 2012 Recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning. [European inventory of validation of informal and non-formal learning 2023 | CEDEFOP](#) The 2023 Inventories have been developed so that they will be searchable with links to case studies nationally in relation to specific practices and themes.