5ᵗʰ VPL BIENNALE

May 6-8 May 2024, Ireland

Programme

Monday 6 May 2024

6:00pm	**Welcome reception** David Denieffe, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Registrar, South East Technological University, Ireland Eileen Curtis, Chief Executive, Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board, Ireland Colleen Seymour, Secwepmc Elder, Canada *Entertainment: Music Generation*	Saint Canice's Cathedral The Close Coach Road Kilkenny City

Tuesday 7 May 2024

8:00am	**Registration/tea and coffee**	Reception Lyrath Estate Convention Centre
9:30am	**Welcome** Conference Co-chairs and Co-organiser representatives	McCurdy
9:50am	**Keynote – Democracy and VPL** Dr Ted Fleming, Professor Emeritus, Maynooth University, Ireland	McCurdy
10:20am	**Panel Discussion** Dr Julie Reddy, University of Johannesburg Ms Pauline Boivin, Lifelong Learning Platform, European Civil Society for Education Mr Diego Piazza-Almudi, National Council for the Standardization and Certification of Labour Skills. Consejo Nacional de Normalización y Certificación de Competencias Laborales (CONOCER) Dr Dae Joong Kang, Seoul National University, South Korea **Moderator**: Dr Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO Q&A	McCurdy
11:15am	**Break**	
11:35am	**Table discussions and report out**	McCurdy

12:45pm	**Lunch**	Yew and Grill Restaurants
~~2:00pm~~	~~**Concurrent session 1 (Inclusion)**~~ ~~Gender mainstreaming within the context of RPL~~ ~~*Catherine Wanjiru Maina*~~	~~McCurdy 1~~
2:00pm	**Concurrent session 2 (Skills)** Mature-aged students in transitions into new careers through welfare professions? *Charlotte Troelsen* *Mette Bech*	McCurdy 2
2:00pm	**Concurrent session 3 (Individual)** Are traditional recognition systems hiding talent pools that could ease skills shortages? *Wendy Cato*	McCurdy 3
2:00pm	**Concurrent session 4 (Skills)** Policy development: Building VPL capacity in the formal education system in Norway *Elisabeth Bøe* *Julie Løvseth*	McCurdy 1
2:00pm	**Concurrent session 5 (Mobility)** Asset mapping for diverse social and cultural capital: case of tourism industry *Timo Halttunen* *Anni Karttunen*	Maginnes 2
2:00pm	**Concurrent session 6 (Inclusion)** VPL for immigrants & refugees in the US: The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System Experience *Charlotte Nitardy* *Mary Beth Lakin*	Maginnes 3
2:40pm	**Concurrent session 7 (Inclusion)** Understanding Recognition of Prior Learning as a Tool for Labour Market Integration *Per Andersson*	McCurdy 1
2:40pm	**Concurrent session 8 (Skills)** Validating work experience for further learning NCOI University's learner-friendly VPL-process *Ruud Duvekot* *Irma Kolkman* *Madeleine Farla*	McCurdy 2
2:40pm	**Concurrent session 9 (Individual)** Elusive and fragile: working towards a national approach to RPL that scaffolds organic traditions systemically	McCurdy 3

	Andrina Wafer *Jim Murray*	
2:40pm	**Concurrent session 10 (Skills)** Measuring Democracy in Design – Two case studies of skills recognition for skilled migrants and refugees *Deb Carr*	Maginnes 1
2:40pm	**Concurrent session 11 (Mobility)** Empowering Mobility: Unveiling the Transformative Impact of Mainstreamed VPL Provision in Donegal ETB's FET Service *Siobhan Murray*	Maginnes 2
2:40pm	**Concurrent session 12 (Inclusion)** Competency-based PLAR for Assessing Student Learning *Sylvia Bell* *Iain Pardoe* *Carolyn Ives* *Susan Forseille*	Maginnes 3
3:20pm	**Concurrent session 13 (Inclusion)** VPL on Trial *Serge Ravet* *Don Presant*	McCurdy 1
3:20pm	**Concurrent session 14 (Skills)** French VPL reform : an example of democratisation and empowerment of the public *Emilie Burel* *Anne Bretel*	McCurdy 2
3:20pm	**Concurrent session 15 (Individual)** The role of monitoring VPL for democracy and accountability in Italy *Roberto Trainito*	McCurdy 3
3:20pm	**Concurrent session 16 (Individual)** Empowering Learning Journeys: The potential for Gen AI to support the Individual Validation with My Career Path at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Ireland. *Carina Ginty* *Gavin Clinch*	Maginnes 1
3:20pm	**Concurrent session 17 (Mobility)** Does validation support mobility while respecting cultural and sub-cultural difference? The case of UIL's work on RVA for migrants and refugees *Raúl Valdés Cotera* *Katie Jones*	Maginnes 2
3:20pm	**Concurrent session 18 (Inclusion)** Embedding and Promoting Validation of Prior Learning across Limerick and Clare ETB College of FET	Maginnes 3

	Alan Hogan *Patsy Hogan* *Caroline Goode* *Donna Horgan* *Megan Buckley*	
3:50pm	**Break**	
4:10pm	**Concurrent session 19 (Inclusion)** Decolonising PLAR at TRU: Perspectives from a student, advisor, and director *Susan Forseille* *Nic Suapa* *Geraldine Bob*	McCurdy 1
4:10pm	**Concurrent session 20 (Skills)** Validation Skills: Prior Learning Assessment and Refugees and Displaced Populations *Jenny Mincin*	McCurdy 2
4:10pm	**Concurrent session 21 (Individual)** Collaborating and sharing RPL knowledge and practice – the case of the RPL Digital Badge *Clare Walsh* *Ciara Staunton*	McCurdy 3
4:10pm	**Concurrent session 22 (Individual)** Career Development Practice: Transformation through Validation *Teresa Francis* *Lindsay Guitard*	Maginnes 1
4:10pm	**Concurrent session 23 (Mobility)** Unlocking Pathways to Academic and Workforce Success through CPL/VPL *Kendrah Winters-Pearson* *Dallas F. Kratzer II*	Maginnes 2
4:10pm	**Concurrent session 24 (Inclusion)** Making Fewer Strangers – Networking Networks *Christina Paulus* *Siobhan Magee* *Carol Lynch* *Tilman Dörr* *Andy Brown (Moderator)*	Maginnes 3
4:50pm – 6:00pm	**Lightning talks 1** PLAR 2001: Introduction to Reflective Practice and PLAR Portfolio Building – *Carolyn Ives, Sylvia Bell* Valuing Informal Validation of Prior Learning as a Principle of Adult Education – *Nuala Glanton* Cultural competency training as an approach to valuing diverse cultural knowledge and ways of understanding – *Clare Walsh*	McCurdy 1

	Enhancing the implementation of RPL in Irish higher education – *Deirdre Goggin* Regione Piemonte towards universal VPL: building a right for all – *Teresa Valentino* European RPL Network: Peer support through networks – Agnes *Witzani* Breaking Barriers: Empowering Childcare Professionals through VPL for Career Mobility and Higher Education Access – *Martina Ward McNulty*	
	Lightning talks 2 Passages: Valuing singular experience through a digital framework – *Yves de Champlain* Validation of Prior Learning within the National Hairdressing Apprenticeship: a National Approach – *Patsy Hogan* Teagasc- Supporting and enabling the VET learner in the RPL process in the land based sector in Ireland – *Carmel Finlay* Recognition of prior learning as an educative experience – *Cathal de Paor* Reflections on a PhD study: uncovering the values, beliefs, and assumptions in RPL – *Phil O'Leary* Putting Learners First: scaffolding RPL approaches for Adult Education Practitioners – *Catriona Warren, Ann-Marie Cullen, Clare Power* RPL – the Scottish Perspective – *Marissa Lippiatt* Adapting Educational Principles Inspired by First Peoples Learning – *Susan Forseille*	McCurdy 2
4:50pm	**Concurrent session 25 (Skills)** IPERIA and the development of VPL for the homecare sector: 30 years of innovation and impact on the French VPL reform *Nadège Turco* *Marion Marty* *Camille Savre*	McCurdy 3
4:50pm	**Concurrent session 26 (Skills)** Powering PLAR with Artificial Intelligence *Adrienne Galway* *Nick Hanson*	Maginnes 1
4:50pm	**Concurrent session 27 (Mobility)** Validation, Access, Progression, and Social Justice in South Africa *Heidi Bolton* *Makhapa Makhafola*	Maginnes 2
4:50pm	**Concurrent session 28 (Inclusion)** Why Opening the Recognition of ALL Learning Credentials Matter? *Julie Reddy*	Maginnes 3
5:30pm	**Concurrent session 29 (Individual)** Empowering Vocational Learners through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): Fostering Active Engagement and Career Advancement *Sandra Joyce* *Caoimhe Ní Riain*	McCurdy 3

	Cormac Byrne *Geraldine Brassil*	
5:30pm	**Concurrent session 30 (Skills)** Pilots, projects and path dependence: Building new systems for prior learning *David P. Burns*	Maginnes 1
5:30pm	**Concurrent session 31 (Mobility)** MARTe – "A technological approach to micro-credentials": an overview *Francesco Sanasi*	Maginnes 2
5:30pm	**Concurrent session 32 (Inclusion)** Exploring how Validation of Prior Learning (VPL) strengthens inclusion in an Irish and Finnish context *Martha Bolger* *Fergus Craddock* *Peter Pahlman* *Sarah Barron* *Amanda Butler*	Maginnes 3
6:00pm	Break and socialising	
7:00pm	**BBQ**	BBQ Pavilion

Wednesday 8 May 2024

8:15am	**Round table sessions** Learned young, old(er) done. Learning to Reflect on one's talents at an early age – *Olten van Genderen, Ruud Duvekot* Using a Continuum to Increase VPL Opportunities – *Nan Travers* Creating Open Pathways: Using OER to Support PLAR Portfolio Creation – *Sylvia Bell and Carolyn Ives* Democracy in Nursing Education – *Lorraine Clarke-Bishop* Child and Youth Care Students as RPL Advisors – *Tricia Bonner, Sarah Hopper* A Practice Based Case Study: A cohort approach for academic programme recognition for enterprise learners – *Christine McCabe, Myra Feely, Olive Kelly* Learning path independent holistic validation assessments for students with working experiences – *Jannie Lensen* VNIL in a VUCA World: The View from eucen – *Lyndsey El Amoud, Christina Paulus*	McCurdy
8:15am	**Networks meeting**	Maginnes 2
9:00am	**Welcome and announcements**	McCurdy
9:15am	**Panel discussion – Connecting learning across continents** Dr Ernesto Villalba Garcia, CEDEFOP	McCurdy

	Brikena Xhomaqi, Lifelong Learning Platform, European Civil Society for Education Raúl Valdés Cotera, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning Christine Hofman, International Labour Organisation *Q&A*	
10:15am	Break	
10:30am	**Case studies and round table discussions** *Katie Jones, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning* *Susan Forseille, Thompson Rivers University, Canada* *Anna Kahlson, Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education* *Q&A*	McCurdy
11:15am	**Policy responses** **The rudder that sails the ship: policy** Exploring policy and linking to the 4 themes and case studies *Aline Juerges, European Commission* *Dr Rhianna Rogers, US Department of the Treasury* *Orla Lynch, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science* *Dr Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO*	McCurdy
12:00pm	Lunch	
1:10pm	**Concurrent session 33 (Individual)** Validating Prior Learning in the context of Rural Community Development *Gary McNeely* *Wayne Kelly*	McCurdy 2
1:10pm	**Concurrent session 34 (Individual)** A Pause for Reflection: On the Meaning of What We are all Doing *Alan Mandell* *Ruud Duvekot*	McCurdy 3
1:10pm	**Concurrent session 35 (Skills)** Volunteering, Validation and Employability: VOL+ Program Evaluation *Maida Pieper*	Maginnes 1
1:10pm	**Concurrent session 36 (Inclusion)** Empowering students in lifelong learning: Forging a new practice of VPL in Icelandic universities *Anna Magnea Hreinsdóttir*	Maginnes 2
1:10pm	**Concurrent session 37 (Inclusion)** Micro-credentials as a building block to recognize prior learning for entry to higher education *Meg Benke* *Sergio Botelho Junior*	Maginnes 3

1:50pm	**Concurrent session 38 (Individual)** Mediating knowledge boundaries: translating and transferring learning across work and educational contexts *Helen Pokorny*	McCurdy 3
1:50pm	**Concurrent session 39 (Skills)** The Validator's Role in Recognizing and Assessing Prior Learning: A Norwegian Perspective *Anette Lund Follestad*	Maginnes 1
1:50pm	**Concurrent session 40 (Skills)** Qualifications + Validation = putting all skills to use *Anna Kahlson* *Marcus Karlsson*	Maginnes 2
1:50pm	**Concurrent session 41 (Inclusion)** Quantifying the Contribution of RPL in Irish Higher Education: Progress toward developing a consistent sectoral Dataset across 14 Higher Education Institutions *Grace Edge* *Christine McCabe* *Aishling O'Toole*	Maginnes 3
2:30pm	**Concurrent session 42 (Individual)** PLAR for Everyone: A New Way to Recognize Skills and Learning *Michelle Chisholm* *Hazel Richardson* *Patrick Reinartz*	McCurdy 3
2:30pm	**Concurrent session 43 (Mobility)** Show me and tell about it *Paula Willemse*	Maginnes 1
2:30pm	**Concurrent session 44 (Skills)** Delivering RPL: structured yet flexible, with the learner at the centre *Deirdre Goggin* *Phil O'Leary*	Maginnes 2
2:30pm	**Concurrent session 45 (Inclusion)** What Do We Want To Cherish? Re-Examining Assessment In The Collective World *Nan Travers*	Maginnes 3
1:10pm – 3:00pm	**Lightning talks 3** RPL Practitioners Network Ireland: Collaboration in Practice – *Angela Higgins* Basic generic competencies for employment are the foundation for inclusion and employability – *Jörgen Bergvall* PLAR Persistence: What impacts were experienced by individuals who had experiential learning validated, culturally, socially, and practically? – *Iain Pardoe, Susan Forseille*	McCurdy 1

	An RPL Toolkit for a new qualification – bridging the gap – *Fiona Fay* Building on Experience, not (only) Certificates: Digital Tools and the Potential to Bridge the Gap in Skill Validation and Career Guidance – *Simon Schmid, Christof Bretgeld* Professional Testimonial within a specialised course bridging for experiential learning: A collaboration of Enterprise Engagement – *Sabrina Kavanagh* Achieving RPL Using Scotland's National Framework for Qualifications – *Nicola Smith* Vocational validation for Swedish property management – *James Johnson* National momentum, local innovation…a helpful nudge for the enhancement of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) – *Deirdre Harkin*	
1:50pm – 3:00pm	**Lightning talks 4** Framework use in RPL: A Conceptual Approach – *Paul O'Leary* Stackability of Micro-Credentials – *Nick Hanson* 'RPL for professionals in the creative industries in Ireland and abroad: micro-credential case study' – *Rebecca Roper, Lousia Keogh* Co-creation of a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Toolkit for the Irish Higher Education sector – *Clare Walsh* UDL for VPL – Empowering Individuals for VPL Assessment – *Amanda Butler* Ready, Set and Go for Validation! – *Thomas Nylund* Transversal Skills Development – *Mila Popovic*	McCurdy 2
3:00pm	Break	
3:30pm	**Closing session** Professor Alan Mandell, SUNY Empire State University, USA Professor Irene Sheridan, Munster Technological University, Ireland Gina Ebner, European Association for the Education of Adults	McCurdy
4:45pm	**Bus departs for Dublin Airport**	Lyrath Estate Hotel