1st Validation of Prior Learning Biennale

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The 1st VPL Biennale was held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on April 9-11, 2014, and was hosted by INHolland University of Applied Sciences. More than 200 participants from European countries, the Republic of Korea and Canada attended the conference.

The central theme of the 1st VPL Biennale concentrated on 'The promise of VPL as the motor of social and economic change'. Six topics were lunched for attending to this scientific event: The power of VPL, The roadmap of VPL, Linkages of VPL, Personalization of learning, Quality-assurance, Open and flexible learning.



The VPL Biennale aim was to offer a meeting framework for experts, researchers, policy makers and people interested in VPL so current developments in **Validation of Prior Learning** to be discussed and research studied, policies, methods and practices to be presented. The goals of this event were:

- Knowledge exchange, sharing information, ideas and visions and about the creative process of learning
 from each other's successes, problems and solutions in 'the VPL-world'. This entailed a focus on the
 systematics of Validation of Prior Learning as the motor of more effective learning and working processes;
 all-inclusive for every citizen, regardless of status, gender, age, philosophy, special need, heritage or any
 other personal feature.
- Networking creating a platform for policy makers, practitioners, users, researchers and all other stakeholders that are interested in further developing/implementing VPL in their practice.
- Challenge discussion on recent developments and the future and a market place for sharing knowledge and expertise.

All forms for knowledge and competence exchanged were facilitated through different workshops, discussions, poster-sessions, a marketplace, keynotes, active on-line publishing, etc.

79

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The keynotes and the parallel sessions pointed out that VPL already is active in all lifelong learning-perspectives (qualification-oriented, function-oriented and person-oriented), on the labour market and in education. This notion was highlighted in the concluding forum: *VPL needs to move from fragmentation to integration*. Another conclusion of the event was that in the coming years, VPL is explicitly going to be (further) embedded in the primary processes of learning (vocational, university) and working (HR systems, collective agreements, training funds). VPL will be – within these two main systems as well as between them – a matchmaker and 'guide' for sustainable personal development, shared ownership citizens-organisations of competency-based development and flexibility of the system.

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⁶³ Duvekot, R., Joong, D., Murray, J., 2013, *Validation of Prior Learning as a multi-targeted approach for maximising learning opportunities for all. Linkages of VPL*, *Series* VPL Biennale nr. 2, published by Inholland University AS & European Centre for Valuation of Prior Learning, http://www.vplbiennale.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Linkages_of_VPL_2-Celeo.pdf