

RPL - From Peer to Peer

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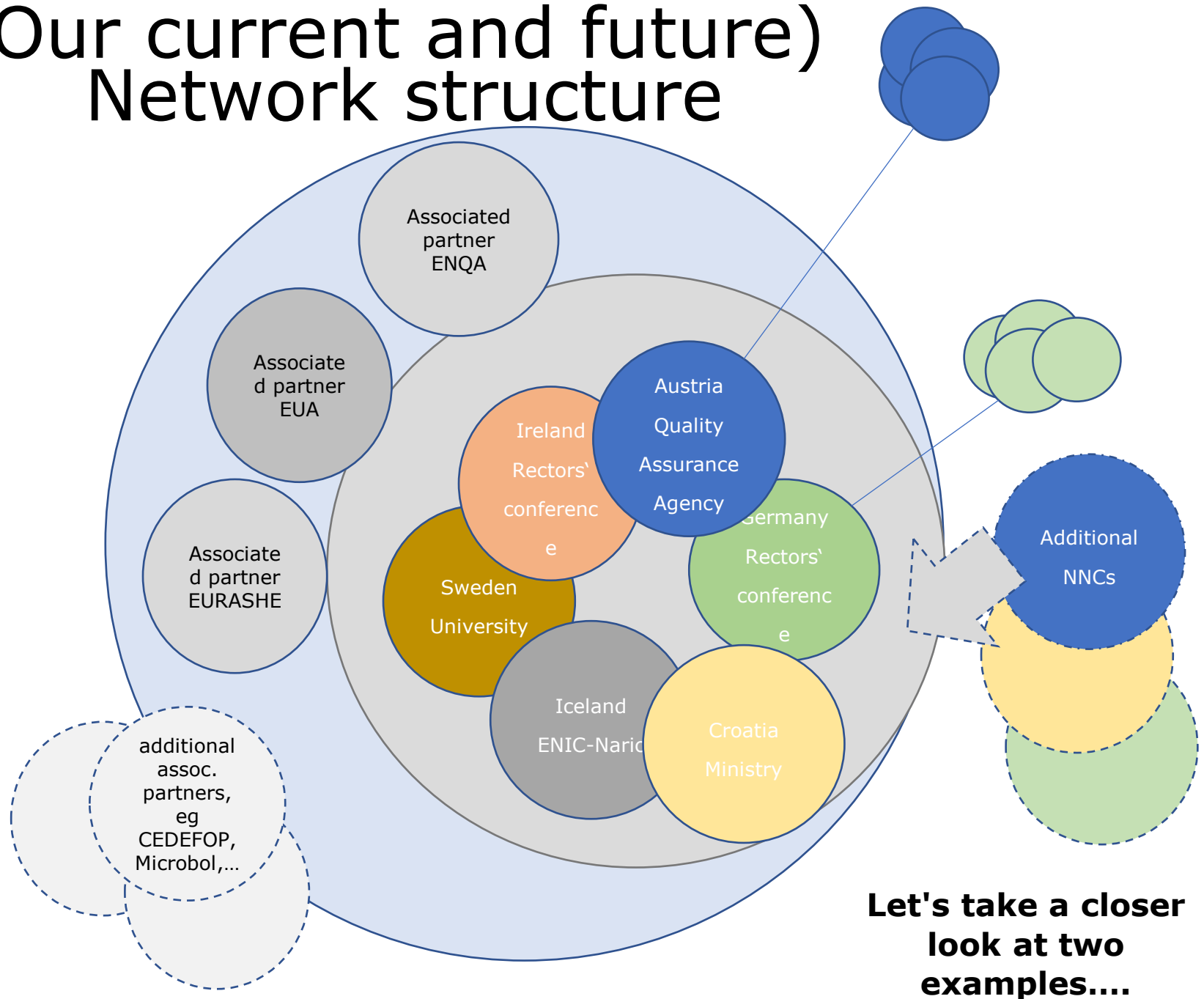
European RPL network - our background and starting point

- Starting point Erasmus+-project *RPL in Practice*, finalised in 2021
- Project group comprising 5 partner countries (Sweden, Austria, Croatia, Ireland, Iceland) and their respective **RPL networks**
 - with different structures, similar challenges...
 - that either had existed before or were established during project lifetime
- One of the main findings: **European peer learning is an extremely important and helpful tool for successful national networking activities**
- ➔ **Need for institutionalized European network**

European RPL network - our ideas and plans

- Establish a sustainable European network on RPL, **bringing together already existing national networks (“network of networks”)**
 - for the **exchange of experiences** between network-coordinators
 - to support the exchange between **higher education institutions and other network members** represented in the networks and other institutions involved
- ➡ Erasmus+ proposal “RPL from Peer to Peer”

(Our current and future) Network structure



RPL networks in Sweden

- Regional network of **seven HEIs/universities** in the west part of Sweden – Validation Network West
- Started in **2016** with the remittance of the first report from The National Delegation of Validation (2015-2019)
Bottom – up: A few persons with experience of RPL from different HEIs made contact. Supported by regional network for vice-chancellors (top – down)
Formalised in 2017 at the time for a National project for RPL in HEIs (2017-2018). **Project group + steering committee**
- A **common methodology/handbook** and an **agreement for cooperation**, signed by vice-chancellors
- Other regional networks was created – today represented in a **National Network for RPL in HEIs**



Success factors and challenges

Success factors

- Peer learning, good/best practice – to improve routines
- Consensus - of terminology, methodology, roles, ethics, processes etc.
- The more similar we work, the better for the applicant (i.e. student)
- Accept each other's assessments, trust
- Stronger together when trying to influence authorities or government

Challenges

- Autonomous units/authorities
- Different conditions – size, number of applications, organisation - though same legislation (vague) – different interpretations of rights and responsibilities
- Lack of national coordination, IT-system, no finance



CHALMERS

 JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

 HÖGSKOLAN I BORÅS



 HÖGSKOLAN VÄST

 HÖGSKOLAN
I HALMSTAD

 HÖGSKOLAN
I SKÖVDE

 Validering
Väst

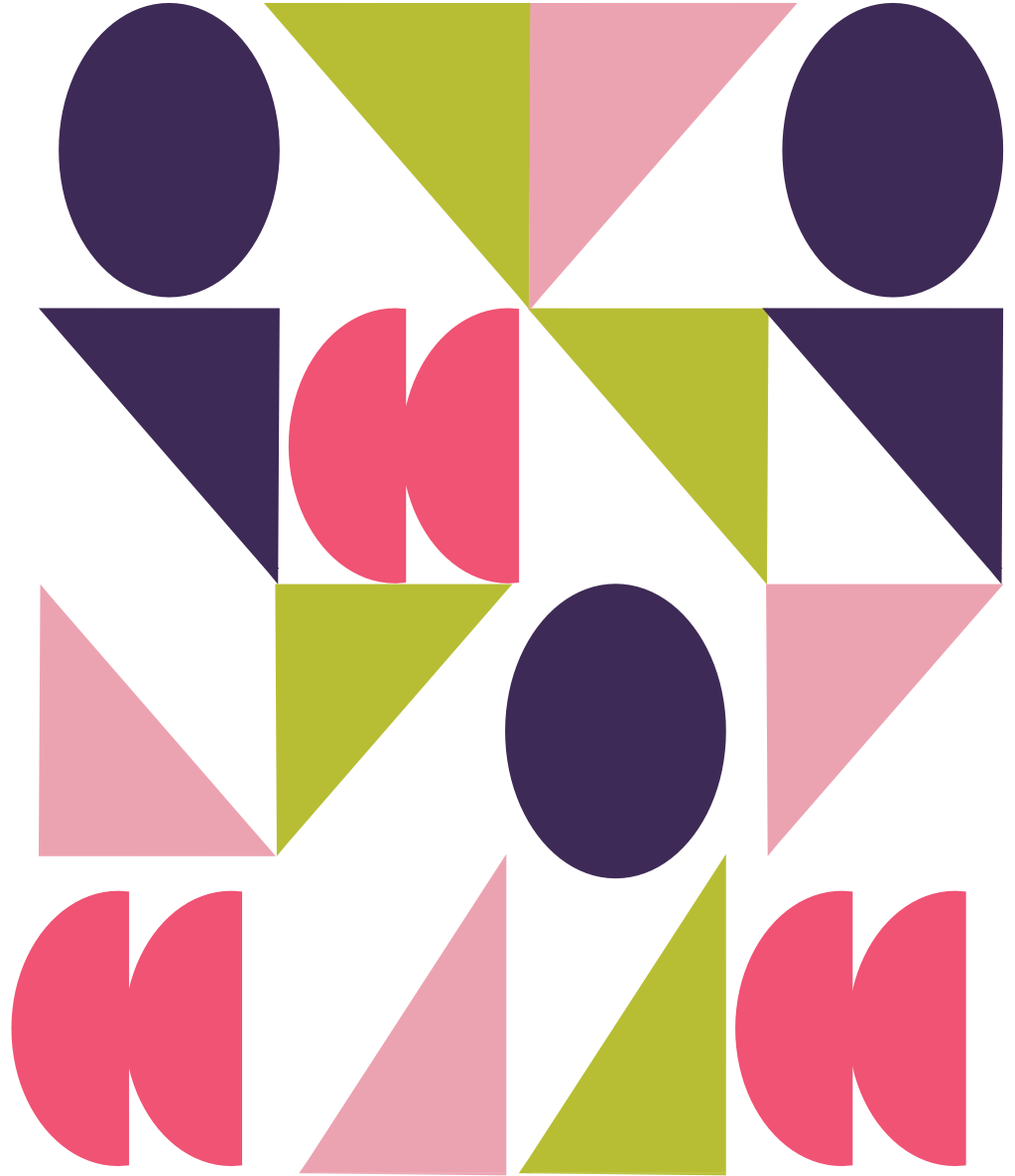
 VÄSTRA
GÖTALANDSREGIONEN



Recognition of
Prior Learning

Your Learning Counts

National RPL in Higher Education Project, Ireland



About the Project



- 19 Publicly Funded Higher Education Institutions in Ireland
- Co-sponsored by Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) & Irish Universities Association (IUA), oversight from VPs Acad Affairs/Registrars
- Funded by the Human Capital Initiative (Innovation & Agility) – Employer Levy
- Goal is to make RPL an integral part of Irish Higher Education offering lifelong learning opportunities of value to learners and enterprise
 - National RPL Framework
 - Sectoral Website
 - Staff Development
 - Awareness Raising & Promotion
- Project Team of 3 based in THEA, and 19 0.5FTEs based in each HEI – AMBITION RPL Team!
- Peer-to-Peer Learning across HE a key feature of the project
- Link to the RPL Practitioners Network – forum for further & higher education

Success Factors & Challenges

Success Factors

- 19 HEIs, 19 different starting points
- Identifying the starting point
 - HEI audit & review
 - sectoral benchmark for HEIs
 - reframe – get the right project, then get the project right
- Diversity of the AMBITION Team
- Sectoral positioning of project (neutral space)
- Multiple participations in HE required for many people, HEIs can't afford NOT to do it
- Competitive funding (scrutiny & accountability)
- Covid – positive disruption!

Challenges

- 19 HEIs, 19 different starting points (at least!)
- Identifying the starting point (fragmentation)
- Diversity of the AMBITION Team
- Understanding of RPL and how it can be applied
- HEIs' programmes & systems built for fulltime school leavers
- Consistency v autonomy

Questions to the forum

- What are your experiences with networks in your countries?
- What do your networks look like?
- What are the challenges?
- What would the purpose of a European network be in your context?
- Are there any outputs (eg. handbooks) you would like to mention/recommend?