

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central white area where the text is placed.

Building an RPL Practitioner Network

The Irish Experience

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RPL development in Ireland

- ▶ No national policy for RPL but it is included in the strategy documents for FET and HE and the national skills strategy documents
- ▶ Some notable organic developments of practice already exist however the awareness of these developments are low within and between sectors
- ▶ Evidence of RPL development across the sectors and not limited to education
- ▶ There is a general understanding of what constitutes RPL however there is an absence of clarity and a commonly agreed definition of RPL in Ireland
- ▶ Comparable data and measurable indicators of activity are not currently available across the sectors nationally
- ▶ There are positive developments at a national and institution/organisation level, however alignment between national level and individual institution efforts is not clear
- ▶ Institutions have invested time in developing systems to support RPL internally. In some cases there is a variation between stated policies and actual implementation
- ▶ Quality assurance and robust systems of assessment, staff development for the implementation of RPL is not as proactively supported as it could be

Achievements to date

- ▶ 2 network events per annum
- ▶ Higher education , further education , voluntary sector and industry
- ▶ Membership of over 130 individuals from across the education, industry representation, social partners, voluntary sector and other representative bodies
- ▶ Presentations from Iceland, Malta and the Netherlands on practice
- ▶ Forthcoming event on May 2nd
- ▶ Online platform to facilitate the community of practice
- ▶ Increased sharing across and within sectors

Opportunities

- ▶ share knowledge and exchange
- ▶ build conceptual development
- ▶ create new knowledge and
- ▶ question policy development
- ▶ Influence policy development
- ▶ promote collective action
- ▶ create of strategic alliances
- ▶ Petition for resources
- ▶ develop new areas for practice
- ▶ recognition of practitioner's role
- ▶ Agents of change

Challenges

- ▶ Assembling the network
- ▶ Recruiting members
- ▶ Creating a community of practice
- ▶ Disseminating information
- ▶ Creating a digital platform and monitoring it
- ▶ Forming alliances
- ▶ Strategic development
- ▶ Negotiating policy implementation
- ▶ Influencing policy development
- ▶ Sustaining the network

Your perspective

- ▶ What are the challenges of practice in your country?
- ▶ Would an RPL network be useful to address these challenges?
- ▶ If so, what kind of network would you assemble?
- ▶ Who would participate?
- ▶ How would you organise it?
- ▶ What funding would you need?
- ▶ Where would you source it?

THANK YOU

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