

VPL Model in the certified trades at IDAN in Iceland-success and challenges

IDAN Education Centre has been responsible for conducting the validation of prior learning in licensed manual trades in Iceland since 2007. The process met with a range of different challenges at first as the idea of validating prior learning was not widely known and many held the belief that it was impossible to evaluate work-based experience and knowledge for entry into the formal education system. As procedures for evaluating prior learning became more established and began to prove their worth, there was no longer any doubt that the validation made a significant difference to individuals with competences acquired in the labour market. At the outset, it was essential to present the valuation of prior learning to stakeholders, not least within the formal education system. Since then, experience has thrown light on the importance for individuals who have undergone the validation process to be offered access to suitable study programs as well as for the education system to develop course options suitable for people in the labour market.

The main focus of this workshop will be IDAN's experience of the validation of prior learning to date, what challenges there have been on the way and what has been successful, while also considering how the valuation of prior learning may continue to develop in the future.