

**« Lifelong learning is more relevant  
than ever before... »**

**European universities  
and  
lifelong learning activities**

**EUA Annual Conference, April 6<sup>th</sup> , 2018  
“Engaged and responsible universities shaping Europe”**

**Hanne Smidt  
Senior Advisor, EUA**

## Same, same, but different...

- Living the changes that were envisioned
- European universities clearer on their complex role
- Revision of the Key Competences
- Still few key figures available for the HE sector
- Digitalisation and technological development (AI, automatisisation, big data ...)
- International LLL
- Part of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4)

# Sustainable Development Goals



## **HISTORICAL MODEL OF UNIVERSITY LIFE**

### **Separate Silos**

**Teaching**

**Research**

**Public  
Service**

## INTER-CONNECTED ENGAGEMENT MODEL

- **Discovery, Learning, Engagement:**  
A direct, two-way interaction where partners learn together, discover new knowledge, and achieve mutual benefits.



*Our teaching, learning and research activities are strengthened through collaborative knowledge-exchange relationships.*



# Mixed "Ever-green" LLL activities

- Childrens' university
- Bridging courses/preparatory
- Continuing education - master
- Up-grading courses
- Re-training courses
- Targeted/bespoke courses
- Senior university courses
- Personal developments

## **”Newish” - related to recognition and globalisation/migration**

- Preparatory courses for foreign students
- Complementary courses for non-national graduates with degrees
- Courses on national rules and regulations for the regulated professions

## New?

- Research and innovation results directly linked to up-grading and up-skilling courses
- "Short cut" courses for foreign nationals with degrees
- Targeted language courses for professionals
- Validation of prior learning (RPL) courses



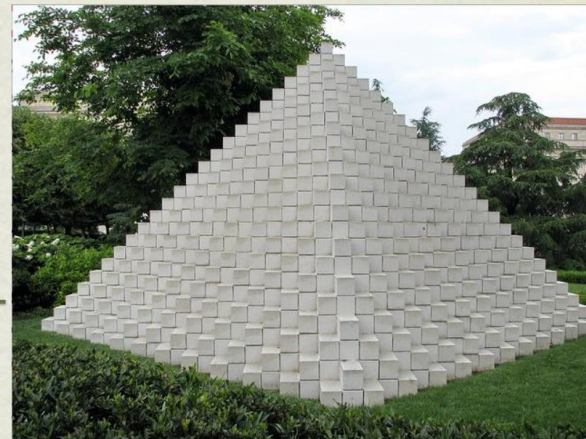
## We still have not radically ...

- improved access and participation for "non-traditional" students
- developed recognition (of prior learning)
- addressed labour market shortages or changes in certain sectors
- solved the funding issues
- WHY?

# Modularisation and accumulation = ECTS?

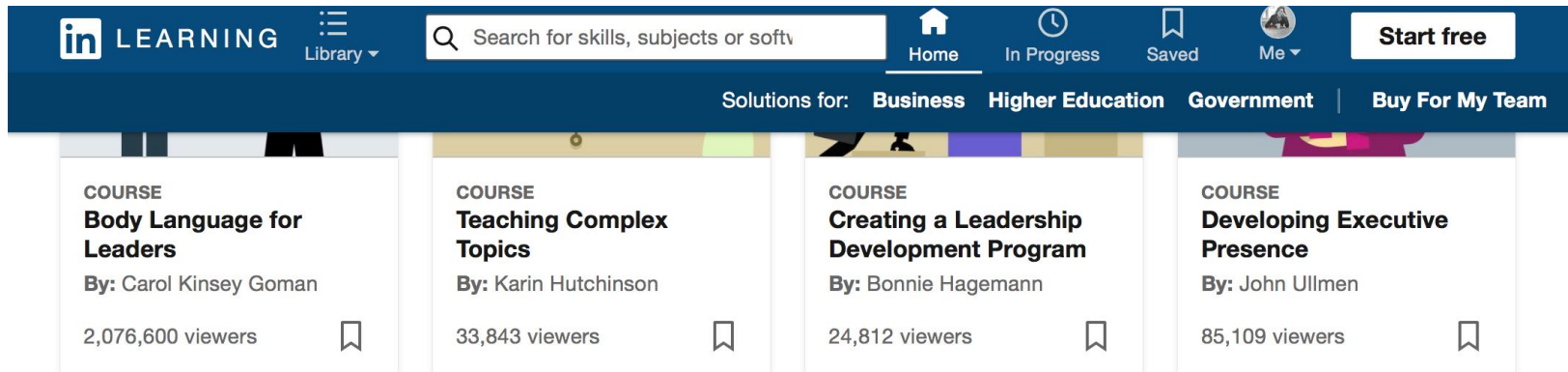
## Modularization

- all CREDIT courses 50% online +
- cannibalization: online modules/OERs re-packaged as certificates/MOOCs;
- fully online an extension of hybrid academic programs
- fully online professional masters: self-financing
- result: academic departments will move into lifelong learning



Four-sided pyramid, by Sol LeWitt, 1999  
Image: [Cliff, Flickr](#), © CC Attribution 2.0

# LLL is now even more available... from many different (& new) providers

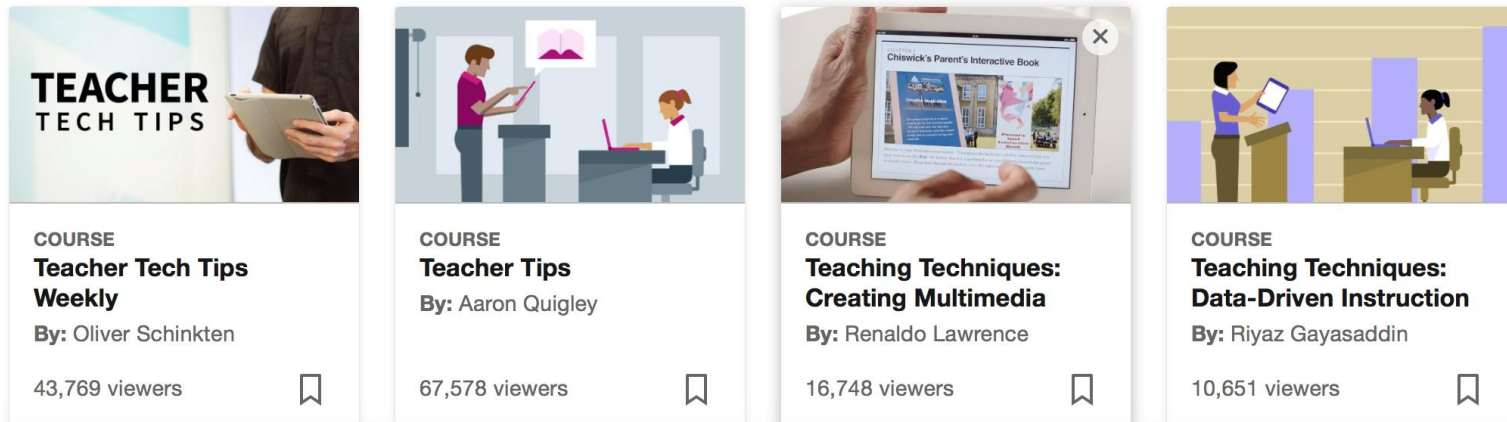


The screenshot shows the LinkedIn Learning interface. At the top is a dark blue navigation bar with the LinkedIn Learning logo, a search bar, and navigation links for Home, In Progress, Saved, and Me. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with 'Solutions for: Business Higher Education Government | Buy For My Team'. The main content area displays a grid of four course cards, each with a title, author, and viewer count.

Course Title	Author	Viewers
COURSE <b>Body Language for Leaders</b>	By: Carol Kinsey Goman	2,076,600 viewers
COURSE <b>Teaching Complex Topics</b>	By: Karin Hutchinson	33,843 viewers
COURSE <b>Creating a Leadership Development Program</b>	By: Bonnie Hagemann	24,812 viewers
COURSE <b>Developing Executive Presence</b>	By: John Ullmen	85,109 viewers

Show more ▾

## Stay sharp on Higher Education



The screenshot shows a section titled 'Stay sharp on Higher Education' with a grid of four course cards. Each card features a thumbnail image, the course title, author, and viewer count.

Course Title	Author	Viewers
COURSE <b>Teacher Tech Tips Weekly</b>	By: Oliver Schinkten	43,769 viewers
COURSE <b>Teacher Tips</b>	By: Aaron Quigley	67,578 viewers
COURSE <b>Teaching Techniques: Creating Multimedia</b>	By: Renaldo Lawrence	16,748 viewers
COURSE <b>Teaching Techniques: Data-Driven Instruction</b>	By: Riyaz Gayasaddin	10,651 viewers



## Fast moving area of development...



Over **1,700** Upcoming  
Education and  
Technology Conferences  
from Around the World

A Searchable Directory



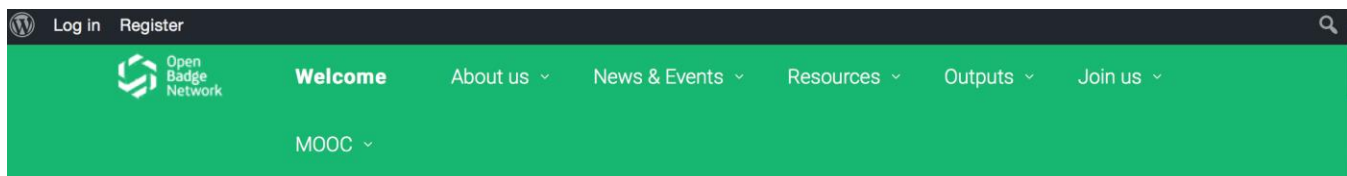
**2,400+** Online  
Learning Companies  
from Around the World

A Searchable Directory

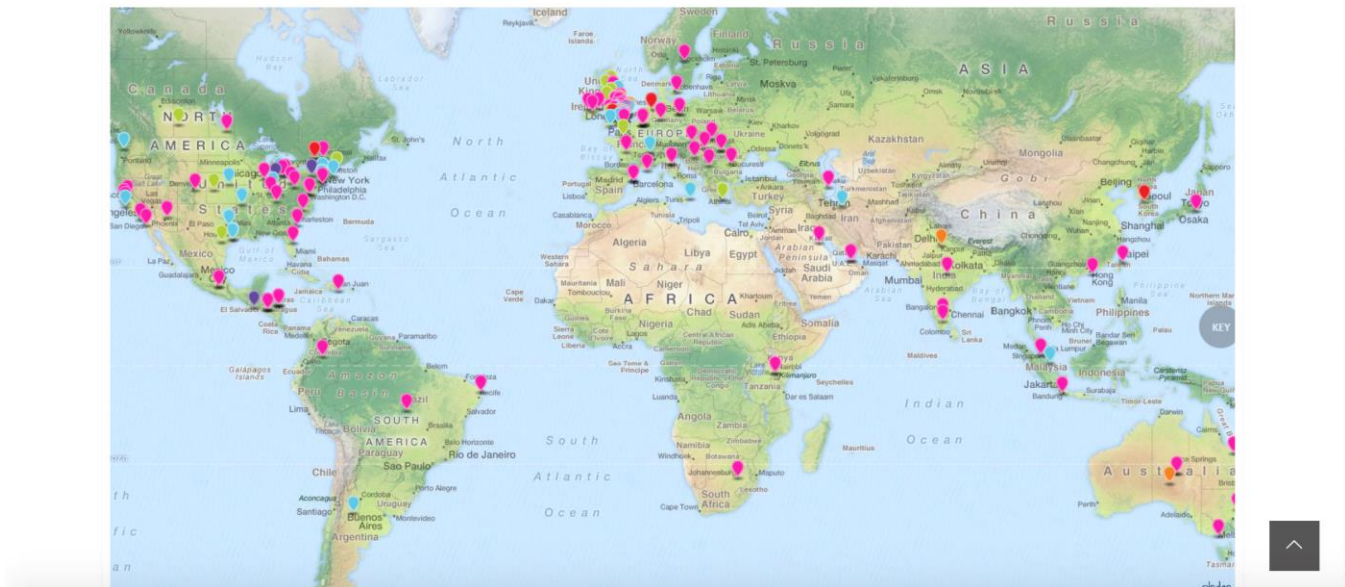
## **We provide formal certification that is easily recognisable,...but**

- do HEIs provide formal certification (credits) for their LLL courses?
- do HEIs have experience with open badges?
- is there certification of MOOCs and other digital learning offers?

# Open Badge Network



Please register here: [OBN community registration](#).



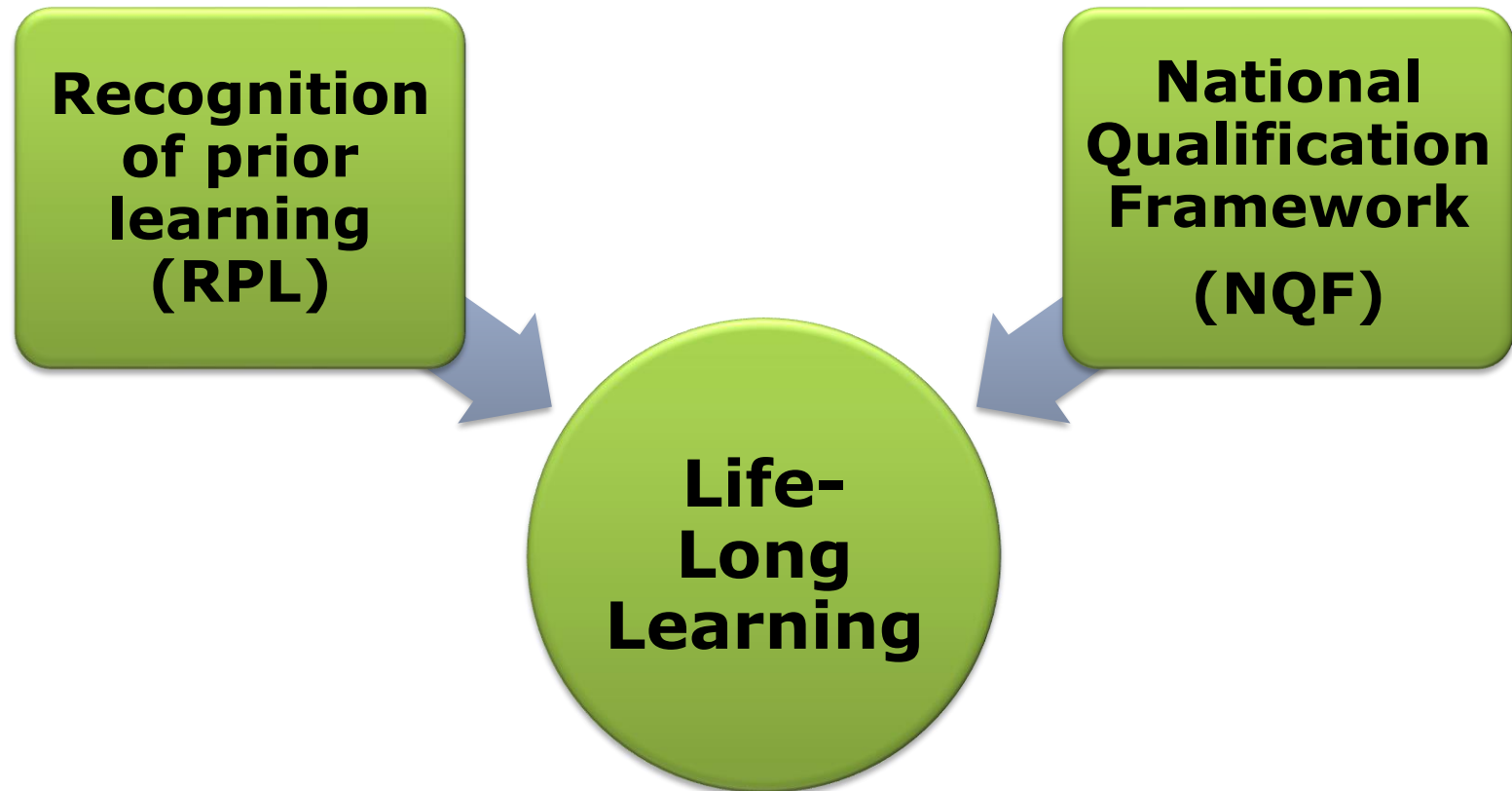


# **Rapidly growing target group: individuals with foreign qualifications**

Currently, the political focus is (naturally) on refugees;

- Recent refugees who apply for asylum or residency
- Immigrants who have been granted residency or asylum
- Immigrants with academic degrees who have been in the country for years is an overlooked group, not having found employment relevant to their degrees

## Reminder: EHEA framework support for LLL provision



# Fair assessment

Fair assessment also means that

- ✓ Institutions must consider the *purpose* for which recognition is requested
- ✓ Recognition gives the right to be *considered* for admission
- ✓ Recognition depends on the *comparability*, rather than on the equivalence, of qualifications

# “Swedish International Talents”

voluntary organisation supporting integration of foreign nationals with an academic degree

- Almost 1400 members in a LinkedIn group
- From 90 countries
- Language: English, Swedish and often a third language
  - All have a bachelor degree
  - 70% has a master
  - 10% have a PhD
  - On average 8 years work experience
  - 60% are women
- 60% are unemployed or engaged in further education to complement their competences and skills, or because they can not even get a job interview.



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku

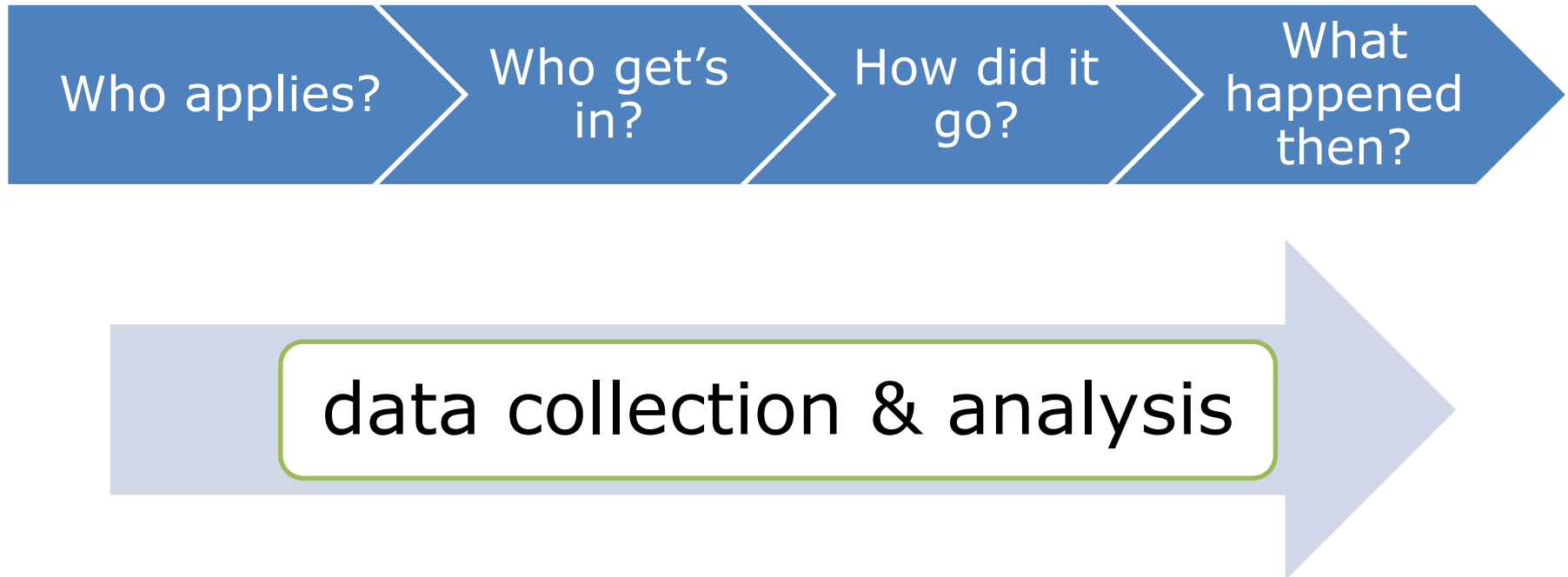
Prior learning  
assessment can  
increase module  
exemption and  
reduce study time.



# Recognition of prior learning in universities



# Lack of data: Tracking the progression path of all students - also for life-long learners?





## In conclusion...

- European HEIs should consider research, innovation and lifelong learning in a more integrated way.
- Lifelong learning and recognition of prior learning (RPL) offer flexible learning paths for lifelong learners, and experimental learning should be valued higher.
- Nothing is more economically, socially and personally wasteful than not acknowledging and building on all of the qualifications, skills and competences that we acquire throughout our lives.
- European HEIs should raise the bar to meet the EU 2020 goals and to support the achievement of the UN SDG 2030.
- European HEIs should define themselves more clearly as the lifelong learning platforms that they are.

## Open question

- Are European universities agile enough to provide relevant degrees and targeted courses to lifelong learners in a complex and evolving landscape or will more flexible actors who can work in shorter timeframes take over?

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**THANK YOU!**

## Further reading

- European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning (EUA 2008)
- Engaging in Lifelong Learning: Shaping Inclusive and Responsive University Strategies (Smidt & Sursock, 2011)
- Lifelong learning is more relevant than ever before (Smidt, UWN 1 April, 2018 )
- Recognition of Prior Learning – Between Expectations and Reality Implementing Recognition in the European Higher Education Area (Smidt, JEHEA, 1 issue 2018)
- Robot-proof Higher Education in the age of artificial intelligence (Aoun, November 2017)

# Examples of LLL activities that can target national and global lifelong learners - for employability

1. Continuing education - as the labour market changes
2. Up-grading - shorter provision - globalisation
3. Re-training, targeted/bespoke courses - research and innovation

**SHARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS AND  
EXPERIENCES...**



# Andrew Bollington<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Global Head of Research and Learning, LEGO Foundation

*"The pace and volume of change in just about every major discipline means that lifelong learning is no longer an option, but absolutely essential. However excellent your education was ..., within a few years of entering the workforce, a gap will be opening up between what you need to know, what has recently been discovered, and what you were taught ...*

*There are many opportunities for lifelong learning available at the click of a button, so why is it that many employers still report a "skills gap" when looking for talented members of the workforce?"*