

## Recognising an individual's prior learning

### What would be great is...

A nationally transparent, consistent and easily accessible system which acknowledges prior learning which has been achieved through work or via another route (e.g. volunteering) and therefore enables learners to start at their own point of learning.

*This already exists in the UK in the guise of AP(E)L (the Accreditation of Prior or (Experiential) Learning). However we think that the way that AP(E)L is currently organised could be improved.*

*There is not a national system and information about it can be difficult to find.*

*Therefore, here are some suggestions to improve the system for the benefit of a socially inclusive society.*

### What is needed?

*UK Government should consider the Dutch model of tax incentives being offered to both learners and employers who use and promote the use of AP(E)L.*

*We need the creation of a national quality assured centre for recognising an individual's prior learning, which should actively promote and market AP(E)L to under-represented groups.*

*We need to re-launch AP(E)L as a tool for the engagement of under-represented groups through specific European, national and local targeting.*

*We need student loans available to learners accessing higher education through AP(E)L.*

*We need to know more about the benefits of AP(E)L to the individual learner, and have accurate, reliable data on the participation in AP(E)L processes and any emerging patterns of use.*

