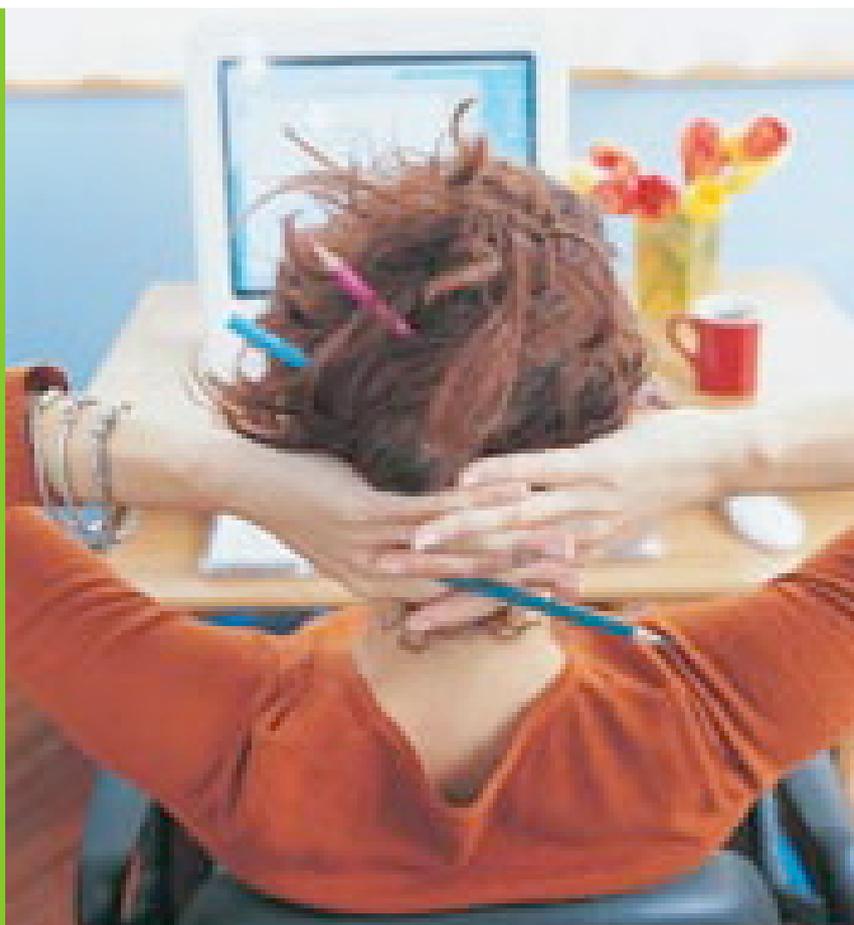


reflect

REFLECTIVE
EVALUATION
INTERESTS
AND DESIRES



Interests and desires and reflective evaluation - continuing a research tradition

What are the principles behind the projects?

Over the past five years, the University of Flensburg, together with other partners from throughout Europe, have been working on a series of linked projects.

The Reintegration project looked at different policies and process for the social reintegration of disadvantaged young people in different European Member States

Tacitkey, focused on 'implicit' or 'tacit' knowledge and carried through a theoretical and empirical analysis of 'tacit' competences based on non-formal learning.

Self evaluation, as the name implies, looked at the use of self evaluation as a tool to help unemployed and socially disadvantaged people progress to further learning or reenter the labour market.

The two new projects, Interests and Desires, funded under the Grundvig programme, and Reflective Evaluation, funded through the EU Leonardo da Vinci programme, build on the work of these projects.

Whilst the projects have different target groups and have developed different products they share a number of features.

All the projects have been concerned about how education and training can be shaped to support the needs of socially disadvantaged people and how the socially disadvantaged can be empowered to take control of their own lives.

All the projects have started from a premise that even those with no qualifications have 'hidden' skills and knowledge. Therefore, there has been an overt focus on informal and non formal learning.

The projects have been based on the idea of mutual learning: that we cannot

simply transfer programmes and initiatives from one country and culture to another but should instead seek to learn from each other. Rather than attempt to implement a single product partners are encouraged to deliver their own products, based on needs and on common cornerstones.

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Reflect - Edition 1

September



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This newsletter is intended to fulfill a twofold purpose. Firstly, it will inform partners of the ongoing priorities and events of the Reflective Evaluation and Interests and Desires projects. Secondly, it is intended for a wider audience, for practitioners and researchers interested in the work of the projects. Although this issue of the newsletter is mainly focused on the kickoff workshops for the two projects, it is hoped that later editions of the newsletter will feature different activities being undertaken - as well as pointing to the results of the projects. The newsletter is designed to be complementary to the project web sites, which we hope will be available in the near future.

This photo shows a workshop undertaken as part of the Self Evaluation project.



Reflective Evaluation

The Leonardo- Project 'Reflective Quality Development for CVT Teachers and Trainers through Self-Evaluation' (Acronym: reflective Evaluation) aims at the sector of Continuing Vocational Education. It focuses mainly on risk groups like unemployed people and "women returners" (to the labour market). However, in most countries people who have gained a considerable degree of formal (also vocational) education are to be found among this target group.

In the scientific literature, but especially through research conducted by the responsible Technical working Group within the Copenhagen Process, it has been well justified that quality assurance and quality development are a task of highest importance for this sector, that is CVT, particularly for the risk groups mentioned.

In the Common Quality Assurance Framework, developed by the Technical Working Group mentioned, as well as particularly in the new Leonardo Call Self-Evaluation of the actors concerned (teachers, trainers, planners connected with decision makers) has been defined as a main goal of development.

The overall project aim consist in designing a tool which the said group of users may like to employ within their respective institutions. Self-Evaluation which is concrete, honest and specifically adapted to the respective situation of the institution means that the actors concerned are willing to make use of it. That is at the same time the decisive precondition for carrying through reliable external to internal self-evaluation in an unquestionable feature of state-of-the-art quality assurance measures.

The project builds, in theoretical and methodological respect, strongly on the results of the Leonardo project (Reference Material) "Re-Integration". It adapts and restructures those results by using an innovative online cooperation amongst the new user groups of this proposal. This represents a new feature not employed, so far, to our

knowledge, in the collaborative international construction of tools for quality development.

The output of the former project consist in an interactive tool for self-evaluation on CD-ROM. It provides for an extraordinary degree of flexibility and adaptability because it can be altered by the users, even nearly down to its basic structures. The new tool, the objective of this proposal, deviate however strongly from the former one because it aims at new target groups in a different target sector.

It will be based on inquiries into culturally and systems-related requirements for self-evaluation while at the same time, via the common online-platform, providing for a European dimension.

Quality assurance and development through self-evaluation should improve the CVT provision for the target groups. It should facilitate their access because it stimulates acknowledging their particular problems (e.g. regarding their often low self-concept).

The high adaptability and easy accessibility of the tool, by using the online platform, will allow for new users to employ the tool and even take part in its development. This will bring about a particularly effective strategy of valorisation. New groups of potential users in adjacent sectors – like initial VET – may make use of it. In addition, the new tool will be transferable to all geographical context of Europe because it allows for such a high degree of adaptation, through self-reliant restructuring by the respective new actors.



Project Workshop Draft Agenda

1. Introduction to the project - key ideas
Gerald Heidegger, Wiebke Petersen and Irina Michel will explain the key ideas which underpin the project and what the project is intended to achieve.
2. Presentation of instrument developed under the Re-integration project
Wiebke Petersen will present the instrument developed through the Re-integration project
3. Developing internet based tools
Graham Attwell will introduce a discussion on the design and use of internet based instruments and tools
4. Investigating standards
This session will examine the work to be carried out under Work-package 2. Issues to be discussed include methods for research, semi structured questionnaire design and templates for reporting.
5. Valorisation - what is it and how do we do it.
Graham Attwell will lead a discussion on our valorisation strategy.
6. Evaluation
Lars Heinneman will present the internal evaluation plan for the project.
7. Web based tools for project collaboration
Graham Attwell will present web based tools for use in the project.
8. Planning ahead
In this session partners will review the work plan and develop their workplans

Project partners

- Institute for Vocational Education and Training (Biat) - Germany
- Institut Technik und Bildung, Universität Bremen, Germany
- University of Patras, Greece
- Danish Institute for Educational Training of Vocational Teachers (DEL) - Denmark
- SC AxA Consulting 99 SRL, Romania
- Academus - Portugal
- Centre for Research and Education Development - Wales
- Pontydysgu - Wales

Participants in the Self-evaluation project were encouraged to undertake authentic activities...



Interests and Desires

The project addresses the situation of marginalized or disadvantaged citizens who feel excluded from society because they are out of work. A great amount of the persons affected tend to isolate themselves and do not regard their life as meaningful without work. Therefore it is important to assist them in appraising their interests, wishes, dreams and desires and to plan the use of these intentions outside the labour market in order to live a meaningful life. This project is crucial because a lot of unemployed people participate in schemes which should help them to improve their situation within the labour market. Despite their endeavours and the progress they achieve during the course they do not arrive at entering the labour market because there are not enough jobs on offer. In order to avoid that these people feel excluded from society and start to isolate themselves it is important that they are assisted in discovering their interests, wishes, dreams and desires and in finding out about options for their realisation outside the labour market. Through such assistance the persons affected are supported in living a meaningful life sometimes even independent of gainful employment. They should be supported in creative planning of this particularly because the conditions they live in have often lead to passivity. The outcomes of the project aim at stimulating them to take part in this creative planning to give them the opportunity to address their interests and desires which may have become tacit. The persons affected might find out that engagement in network building, care for children or the elderly or even engagement in sports clubs suit their interests if they feel not to have enough opportunities to find a paid job. The project aims at developing a course module for adult education which supports them in the above.

Self evaluation

Throughout our life we gain new skills and competencies. Some of these are learnt in formal situations - in school, in vocational training courses, in college or university. Others we learn through our work. Many of our skills come from less formal settings - from home, from our hobbies or from social groups to which we belong.

For some of our skills and knowledge we have certificates to proof what we have learnt. References from previous employers may also provide evidence of our experience. But many of our skills and the knowledge we possess are not recorded by formal certificates.

This becomes a problem when we wish to change our jobs or if we become unemployed. It is also a barrier to entering new courses which require previous experience.

Moreover, we are not always aware of just what skills we do possess. We are not always aware that skills we have learnt in informal settings may provide a basis for new careers, for starting a new course or for using our experience in the community.

The Leonardo Self Evaluation project aimed to help people to become aware of their personal competencies by the use of new methods for self-evaluation of non-formal competencies. Self-evaluation means to support people in evaluating their own possible competencies. The aim was to enable people to discover their own competencies, to make them "visible" and to make use of them for new employment opportunities, including finding opportunities for self-employment.

The results of the project can be found on the project web site - <http://www.self-evaluation.org>.

Workshop agenda

1. Introduction to the ideas of the project

Gerald Heidegger and Wiebke Petersen from BIAT, University of Flensburg will present the ideas which underpin the project

2. Activities and outputs - what are we going to do

This session will examine the different activities and outputs from the project. The aim is to ensure all partners have a common understanding of the 'meaning' of the work.

3. Common cornerstones

This workshop session will develop a series of common cornerstones which will guide national development and implementation.

4. Planning the first phase of our work

In this session we will look more closely at the first phase of the project work and plan activities and deadlines

5. Evaluation and the quality framework.

Graham Attwell will present a plan for project evaluation and evaluation activities and will propose common frameworks for undertaking our work.

6. Dissemination and valorisation

Valorisation is the new buzz word for project development. In this session we will explore the meaning of valorization and examine ICT based tools to assist the project development.

Project partners

- Institute for Vocational Education and Training (Biat) - Germany
- Danish Institute for Educational Training of Vocational Teachers (DEL) - Denmark
- CIBC Artois- Ternois, France
- Academus - Portugal
- Centre for Research and Education Development - Wales
- Pontydysgu - Wales