



LEARNING REGIONS
FROM NORTH
TO SOUTH

Seminar „Making Lifelong Learning a reality“

Cologne, 7th to 9th March

A project within the R3L initiative

“A Holistic and Strategic Approach to Support and Promote Lifelong Learning, Networking Activities and Regional learning”

Participating regions

The 7 participating regions in this project, which are:

- South Denmark Region
- Stuttgart Region
- Rhône-Alpes Region
- West Finland Region
- Lombardia Region
- East Sweden Region
- Dorset Region,

all have the experience that the regional work within LLL is not seen in a holistic and strategic way, and there is not a fundamental understanding of how LLL is important for the overall regional development. The main objective of this project is therefore, through inter-regional co-operation and exchange of experiences, to develop policy recommendations, which will be supported by a number of good practice examples, showing examples of working methods and tools. This will illustrate in practical terms, how regions can work in a more co-ordinated, structured, strategic and holistic way, when they want to work with LLL as an important and strategic factor in the regional development. The objective is that the region will become a sustainable and well-functioning learning region.

Policy recommendations

The policy recommendations will touch upon three main themes, which are:

- How LLL can be an instrument as to support economic growth in a learning region

- How the learning region can support LLL in the best way
- How learning regions can measure the performance of their support within LLL and how they can ensure the quality of the learning region as such.

The project will be divided into one horizontal and five vertical or thematic networks, because we see the policy recommendations and the three themes, which will be dealt with, as some very fundamental and general questions that regions have to consider if they want to develop a learning region in a qualified way.

It is within the horizontal network that the partnership will develop new knowledge.

Themes

The work within the vertical / thematic networks will support the work with the policy recommendations and are at the same time areas where the partners' specific qualifications will be exploited and where the participating regions have specific interest, hence the vertical / thematic networks will be the following;

- LLL and Competence Councils / Skills Councils,
- LLL and ICT,
- LLL and Entrepreneurship.,
- How to support LLL by making training easily accessible for all people and
- LLL and Equal Opportunities and quality of working life

The work, which will be carried out in the thematic networks will be to describe and analyse the regional situation in terms of regional stakeholders, activities, regional development results and best practice examples. This work should serve as input to the work in the horizontal network, where the main objective will be to transform the thematic and regional experiences into a set of general policy recommendations, which should be applicable on a European level, and useful for all regions in Europe, and not only for the 7 regions, which participate in this project.

Target groups

The target groups of the project can be divided into three levels:

- Political / regional administration level
- Organisational level
- Individual level

The target groups correspond to the themes, hence, the horizontal themes will mainly have the politicians and / or the regional administration as target group, as these are the groups, who will implement the policy recommendations in their work. The expected impact on this group is that they in the future will see LLL as an important factor in the overall regional development, and that they will see the support that they give to LLL in a more strategic and holistic way.

The thematic networks shall consist of various stakeholders from the regions, such as educational institutions, chambers of commerce, labour market institutions, social

partners and business development centres, who at the same time will be the target groups on the organisational level, as they are the organisations, which work with LLL and will be influenced by the future policy recommendations. So the expected impact on this target group will be, that it will be easier for them to work with LLL, as the region as a whole, and especially the political decision makers, will have a better understanding of and a more holistic and strategic view of LLL. This will hopefully leave more room for the actors and stakeholders to develop new initiatives and offer qualitative LLL, to a broad spectre of the citizens.

The long term objective

On a longer perspective, the main objective of the project is to make the learning regions more user friendly, and to make LLL more qualitative and accessible for the individual. Hence, groups of citizens from the regions, such as unemployed, semi-skilled and unskilled workers, people in danger of being excluded from the labour market, senior people, people with no ICT knowledge, potential entrepreneurs etc. will be the target groups on the individual level.

For more information

For more information about the project you can either visit our web-site:

www.r3l.net

or you can contact the project coordinator

Henriette Hansen
EU consultant
EU Vest – TIC (Ribe County, Denmark)
Avenue Palmerston 3
1000 Brussels
tel: ++ 32 (0)2 280 32 54
fax: ++ 32 (0)2 280 33 29
e-mail: hha@euvest.com