

# EUROlocal

connecting the dots...



*EUROlocal is the European storehouse on the local and regional dimensions of lifelong learning*

November 2010

The term 'learning region' is commonplace in the lifelong learning debate. This is logical - it represents a key element of EC policy - a place where lifelong learning is implemented and promoted.

The EC definition of a learning region is 'A city, town or region which recognises and understands the key role of learning in the development of prosperity, stability and personal fulfilment, and mobilises all its resources creatively to develop the full human potential of all its citizens'. Such resources include both people and organisations - VET, HEIs, SME's, local authorities, schools and adults, all key stakeholders in a learning region.

EUROlocal is a collaboration between many of the leading proponents of learning region development who recognised that the time has come to provide a central repository for more than two decades of data, tools, indicators, reports, videos, projects, recommendations, plans, strategies, learning materials - a wealth of potentially invaluable knowledge for all EU regions.

Central to the EUROlocal project is an innovative website designed to accommodate the rich variety of Learning Region materials (see inset below) as well as a variety of other supporting project outputs.

Beginning in 2010, the EUROlocal development teams started publishing a wealth of online information on EU learning regions.

EUROlocal reinforces the EC policy on lifelong learning regions by collecting the tools, strategies, learning materials, reports and everything concerned with their development.

The essence of the EUROlocal project is collaborative and interactive. The partners continue to make significant contributions to the development of the concept and practice of the learning region in their own right. EUROlocal represents an easily-accessible resource for local initiatives to the collective experience and knowledge resulting from these pan-European efforts.

As well as connecting the ongoing learning region activities of its principal stakeholders, EUROlocal constantly seeks input and feedback from new and prospective entrants through its Dynamic Survey of European Learning Regions. If you would like to receive an invitation to participate or simply stay informed then please contact us.



## EUROlocal Project Components

In addition to the website, EUROlocal will deliver:

**Data collection audit tool** - An audit tool to collect qualitative and quantitative data on learning city and region activities, tools, materials, processes etc. Includes extensive consultation processes with local authorities, educational organisations and partner networks. The audit tool will be made available in all partner languages as well as French and Spanish.

**Tools testing** - Testing of a wide variety of tools in the organisations for which they were designed to verify content, methodology and cultural acceptability. Translations will be provided in German, Hungarian and Italian. Core partners will select the organisations and encourage them to apply the tools. They will then be modified, classified and made available to regions through the EUROlocal website.

**Learning materials for regions** - Active learning materials in a variety of presentation styles aimed at organisations involved in learning region development. These will cover many topics and be drawn from best practice examples and contain exercises, lessons, research assignments, case studies and discussion tasks. They will be tested in organisations belonging to the partner networks and featured on the website.

**Regional development database** - A database of regions and regional organisations containing key contact information and a short description of activities. The database will be utilised for the dissemination

and exploitation of project outcomes, particularly the publicity of learning materials.

**Recommendations for European policy on learning regions** - Recommendations for a new European policy document on the development of lifelong learning regions, including sections devoted to:

- Regional development organisations for the creation of learning regions;
- Stakeholder organisations on their role and responsibilities;
- Member state governments; and
- The European Commission on future actions.

**Project seminar** - An international seminar for leaders in European regional organisations - 'Investing in Learning Regions'. This will include marketing, programme development, speaker selection, logistics and outputs, with a balance between formal presentations and 'active solution sessions' that promote international cooperation and leverage the experience of the audience.

**Dissemination and continuity** - Throughout the project, materials related to both the work undertaken as well as that collected will be made available through the implementation of a comprehensive dissemination plan. This will ensure that all EUROlocal materials are publicised and distributed throughout Europe, both during and after the project.

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