

Lifelong Learning Programme

KA 4 – Multilateral project: Dissemination and Exploitation

ENTITLE

**Kick-off meeting
London
5/6 February**

Draft Report

**Rob Davies, MDR Partners
5 March 2008**

The full agenda for the meeting is appended as Annex 1. A list of participants forms Annex 2.

Rob Davies (MDR), ENTITLE co-ordinator, began by giving an overview of relevant EU initiatives including the European Action Plan on Adult Learning and its timetable, an outline of the potential role of public libraries in the learning agenda. He referred to important projects to date and key stakeholders including European associations. He related this background to the objectives and timing of ENTITLE results and described the workplan, timetable and resourcing available to achieve these in some depth.

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The remainder of Day 1 of the meeting focused mainly on presentations covering aspects of the role of public libraries in adult learning:

- Anne Marie Schmidt (Aarhus) described innovative, technology-based approaches being taken toward lifelong learning, Information Literacy and Digital Skills at Aarhus Public Libraries in Denmark and also referred to the work of PULLS project.

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- Roger Blamire (European SchoolNet) introduced aspects of the role of technology and media in children's learning and linked this the way in which libraries, media resource centres and analogous structures in schools might usefully relate to this, given the nature and philosophy of school organisation and changes in children's behaviour and attitudes.

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- John Dolan (MLA) described strategies for learning in the UK, linking this to provisions already made public libraries and to future trends and potential roles, referring to key relevant policy initiatives. He discussed issues related to recognition, accreditation and recognition in relation to informal/non-formal learning and outlined future challenges and opportunities for public libraries in this area, highlighting ways in which effective presentation of evidence on the impact of services might be achieved.

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- Peter Wilson (NIACE) went in more depth into the challenges and dilemmas created by past policy directions, in relation to progression and accreditation of informal/non-formal learning the UK. He outlined a possible future role for the kind of learning obtained through public libraries in a potentially more flexible approach to where and how accredited learning takes place.

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Luc Chase (MDR) introduced the concept of the ENTITLE website as a distributed Content Management System built on the Open Source EZPublish platform. This approach would require a content editor to be appointed in each partner organization, with central editing responsibility remaining with MDR. The proposal was warmly received by consortium group.

Action: MDR to launch website to partner group by 20 March

Day 2 of the meeting was mainly devoted to a *tour de table* in which developments in relation to public library provision of lifelong learning services in each participating country were presented and discussed. Although there is a very significant disparity in the extent and effect of this provision, which will reflect on the project's ability to produce an internationally comparable framework for impact assessment, a common factor seemed to be that public libraries in almost every country were striving to contribute to the lifelong learning environment. However, recognition of their key potential role by governments, policy makers and other stakeholders in education was lower than they would wish.

[See individual country powerpoint presentations.](#)

Finally Rob Davies introduced a detailed discussion on project responsibilities, management and finance and the next steps for the project. It was generally agreed that the collection of good practice examples, case studies and guidelines was an area in which many of the consortium partners had experience and should be an achievable and valuable exercise.

Action: MDR to provide data collection survey instrument to partners by 21 March

However, the production of an impact assessment framework useful for comparative purposes across countries was likely to be more complex and challenging task.

Action: MLA to convene the impact working group from among WP partners, identify three partners for initial testing and to begin scoping and definition work by 21 March.

In order to meet the deadline of October 2008 for the multi-stakeholder meeting in Slovenia, where experts would be invited to assess the project's draft results, it would be vital to make a quick start on the project's research and data collection activities.

Action: MDR to produce a more detailed timetable by 21 March.

It was agreed to involve the whole partner group in the Project Management Board (PMB) and possibly to reduce the number of its physical meetings from six to four, introducing remote telephoning conferencing to substitute instead.

Action: MDR to arrange PMB telcon in June

Annex 1: ENTITLE Kick-off meeting, London, 5/6 February: agenda

Tuesday 5 February

11.30 Coffee and registration

12.00 Welcome and introductions

12.30 Overview of project objectives and workplan (Rob Davies, MDR)

13.00 Libraries and lifelong learning: a brief overview of EU initiatives and projects (Rob Davies)

13.30 Lunch

14.30 Questions and discussion

15.00 Public libraries, innovation, ICT and adult learning (Anne-Marie Schmidt, Aarhus, Denmark)

15.30 Children, schools, libraries and learning (Roger Blamire, European SchoolNet)

16.00 Discussion

16.15 Break

16.45 Progression and accreditation through informal learning: from what to what? (Peter Wilson, NIACE)

17.15 How can we assess the impact of lifelong learning through libraries: learning from experience (John Dolan, MLA)

17.45 The ENTITLE website: what does it need to do? (Luc Chase, MDR)

18.00 Discussion

18.30 Close

19.30 Drinks and dinner at the White Swan, Richmond

Wednesday 6 February

09.00 Key developments in participating countries (tour de table - 10 minutes each max, presenters may use ppt if they wish)

11.00 Discussion: what are the main similarities and differences between national approaches? Can we achieve a comparative framework?

11.30 Break

12.00 Project responsibilities, management and finance: how it will work and next steps (Rob Davies, MDR)

12.30 Round up discussion

13.00 Close and lunch

Annex 2 - List of Participants

Name		Organisation	Country
Ibolya	Billedi	Publika	Hungary
Roger	Blamire	European Schoolnet	Belgium
Luc	Chase	MDR	United Kingdom
Andrew	Cranfield	Eblida	Netherlands
Rob	Davies	MDR	United Kingdom
John	Dolan	MLA	United Kingdom
Kate	Fernie	MLA	United Kingdom
Manolis	Garafoulo	Public library of Veria	Greece
Angele	Giuliano	Across Limits	Malta
Breda	Karun	National and University Library, Slovenia	Slovenia
Marja-Liisa	Komulainen	Helsinki City Library	Finland
Gerald	Leitner	BVOE	Austria
Gabriella	Lovasz	Cross Czech	Czech Republic
Leonor	Pinto	Libraries and Archives Dept, Lisbon	Portugal
Doina	Popa	Octavian Goga library, Cluj	Romania
Anna	Popova	ULISO	Bulgaria
Anne-Marie	Schmidt	Aarhus Public Libraries	Denmark
Sorina	Stanca	Octavian Goga library, Cluj	Romania
Peter	Wilson	NIACE	United Kingdom