

Organisation: NRDC, Institute of Education

Meeting: One

Host organisation: Vox

Date: 10th & 11th October 2011

Location: Oslo

Reflections

What were the most useful experiences?

There were a number of useful experiences. Firstly it was good to meet the other partners and to learn something of their background and experience in the area of teacher training for adult basic skills teachers. The partners were at different stages in their development which should lead to interesting and useful exchanges of ideas. In England we have a number of years of experience of developing policy and practice in initial and continuing training for literacy, numeracy and ESOL teachers, and are keen to both share the good practice and lessons we have accumulated and also learn from others at different stages as they find solutions and alternative approaches that we can introduce in England. It will be important that each partner is open to both sharing their own expertise and experiences as well as seeking to learn from all of the other partners. We each have something to give and much to learn. Secondly, it was pleasing to have agreed so readily on the logistics, structure and focus of the partnership. Agreeing the template for sharing of the overall picture of basic skills teacher training in each country was a good exercise in its own right, forcing participants to think clearly about what the partnership should consider and what was outside its remit. For example, this will ensure that our discussions focus on teacher training rather than provision of basic skills classes for learners. The template itself will save time and lend greater depth to our discussions as we will share greater understanding of each other's context and also be able to brief external speakers / guests more easily about the partners' contexts.

What can be considered as examples of good practices?

As the sessions focussed on very broad discussion about the partnership and the approach we would like to take, there were few specifics. However, in the Vox team presentations there were a number of interesting examples of good practice, such as the Vox Framework for Basic Skills for Adults which establishes national standards

for reading and writing, mathematics, ICT skills and oral communication. Within this, the literacy profiles that have been developed for use with employers were particularly interesting as were the formal and non-formal basic skills teacher training programmes that have been introduced in Norway. I look forward to learning more about the content and delivery of these programmes in future meetings.

What did you learn that is similar or different from policy and practice in your own country?

It was clear that the different partner countries were at different stages of development but that all shared a commitment to ensuring that basic skills learners were taught by trained practitioners.

What conclusions can be drawn from the experiences of the meeting?

The partnership has begun well, thanks in large part to the efforts of the hosts and the willingness of all partners to contribute and engage in discussions.

What recommendation can be made based on the experiences and discussions of the meeting

- ***at EU level;***
- ***at national policy making level;***
- ***at institutional level***

At this stage it would not be appropriate to make recommendations as the discussions have only just begun and we spoke more about the partnership structure and focus than about the substantive issues that will begin to address in detail in the next meeting in Bonn.

Helen Casey and David Mallows, NRDC, Institute of Education, University of London
October 20th 2011