

Organisation: Schweizerischer Verband für Weiterbildung SVEB

Meeting: First partner meeting

Host organisation: VOX

Date: 10th and 11th October, 2011

Location: Oslo

Reflections:

What were the most useful experiences?

The meeting in Oslo gave the opportunity to get to know all the partners and their organisations and to learn about the way they work. It was essential to discuss the project content and scope with all partners and to agree upon a basic framework for the future meetings.

From the personal perspective it was useful to get a broad overview of the Basic Skills department at VOX and the situation of Basic Skills learning in Norway in general.

What can be considered as examples of good practices?

In the Norwegian formal Basic Skills teacher training all three competence fields literacy, numeracy and ICT (digital competence) are integrated in one model. This makes a lot of sense from my point of view. During the meeting we did not have the time to discuss whether this model can be considered as good practice in an international comparison. We hopefully have time to do this at the next meetings.

What I definitely consider as good practice is the Norwegian Basic Competence in Working Life Program (BCWL). The concept of developing basic skills directly at the workplace is both efficient and motivating for the participants. We can learn a lot from the way the program was set up in Norway. I would be interested in getting more information about the evaluation of the program's success so far.

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

The Norwegian formal literacy teacher training looks quite similar to the one we have developed in Switzerland (number of days and structure). It was a bit surprising, though, that the primary target group of the training are school teachers with little experience in working with adults. In Switzerland, experience of working with adults is defined as an entry requirement for the literacy teacher training course.

As for the BCWL program we have recently gone (inspired by the Norwegians) into the same direction. In the GO project we have also defined literacy profiles and developed Basic Skills training directly at the workplace.

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

The most important conclusion that I draw from the meeting is that there are competent persons and organisations in the partnership from which we can learn a lot in the field of basic skill teacher training in the next two years. The atmosphere was open and productive – a precondition for every successful project.

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

The discussion at the meeting showed that basis skills teacher training is an issue that is highly important when talking about quality in the basic skills field. A general conclusion that could be drawn from the experience of the meeting is that professionalization of the teacher training should be a central and key element of every national basic skills strategy. A first step towards professionalization is that Basic Skills teacher qualifications are clearly defined and that high-quality trainings for teacher are being provided.

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