

Report

Organisation: Education Scotland

Meeting: Basket

Host organisation: NRDC

Date: 26th - 28th Feb

Location: London

I. Reflections

What were the most useful experiences?

Meeting with all the partners (and visitors from Netherlands) is always valuable and the feeling that the partnership was beginning to settle and become more productive.

What can be considered as examples of good practices?

The work that the NRDC discussed in terms of improving practice based on strong research evidence. Particularly important is the emphasis on research based practice, for example the discussion around the four resource model of reading (Luke and Freebody, 1999) was very new to many participants and was good to revisit for those of us who were familiar with it. Likewise the discussion around the language experience approach was useful as it showed the differences in adult literacies practice and ESOL literacies practice.

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

I think it is interesting to hear how the Czech Republic is still emerging in terms of policy; likewise Switzerland has a much more functional approach which differs significantly from our social practice approach.

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

That we all have a lot to learn from one another, that we can collaborate most effectively when we concentrate on teaching practice rather than on high level policy considerations.

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

- at EU level;

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That future projects should focus on common approaches to teaching practice and offer less focus on the policy environment. This offers more opportunity for meaningful and productive discussions which can offer a meaningful opportunity to influence and change policy by participants.

- at national policy making level;

A strong focus should be maintained on evidence based policy making utilising current research from the field. Mechanisms should be proposed for sharing useful research and practice.

- at institutional level

That practice based research should be an integral component of day to day practice in order to develop useful and meaningful policy making at national and EU level.