

Organisation: **NRDC**
Meeting: **Basket**
Host organisation: **Hungary**
Date: **13/14 June 2013**
Location: **Budapest**

The Budapest meeting was structured around two main topics: the NYITOK project to develop 50 adult learning centres across Hungary and the finalisation of the BASKET recommendations.

Lars Oleson gave a presentation on the NYITOK pilot programme, describing the Open Learning Centres and, of particular interest to our group, the professional roles of those working in the centres. Lars focused on the evolution of the concept of a 'Learning Integrator' and their role in local promotion of basic skills learning. There was useful discussion flowing from Lars' description of the role of the learning integrator. It was agreed that this had similarity to Scotland's concept of a community organiser – someone who is embedded in the local community and uses their local knowledge to encourage adults, their employers, public servants and others to work together to improve the skills and competences of adults in the local community.

We were given an interesting overview of basic skills teaching and learning in Hungary by Dr. Mária Arapovics, from the Faculty of Andragogy at the University ELTE. There was also a presentation, by Györgyi Csendes & Zsolt Vincze on a workplace learning project carried out by Progress in collaboration with SVEB.

The main work carried out in the meeting was to finalise the recommendations. In this we were building on the excellent progress made in Timisoara. We were well organised, working in groups to draft specific sections in an iterative process that led to an agreed final text with minimal work needed following the meeting.

By the Budapest meeting the participants in the BASKET Learning Partnership had learned a great deal about each others' contexts and had made real progress in defining what professional development for teachers of adult basic skills means in such different contexts as Romania and England. The professional and personal relationships established through the learning partnership have already borne new fruit in the form of collaborations on bids, projects and in the work of the European Basic Skills Network.

David Mallows,
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March 2013