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Realization of an Open University in Sweden for everybody

- Realization of the Open University in Sweden
- Lifelong learning in both urban areas and rural areas
- Collaboration between popular adult education and higher education
- Contacts between compulsory school and higher education
- Exhange of transnational experiences

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The Community Initiative, EQUAL, Thematic field III, Promoting lifelong learning

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Goals

- Create a desire and enthusiasm for the world of education within new target groups in the local community
- Create a system of education equally applicable in urban areas, sparsely-populated islands and mountain regions
- Facilitate studies at different levels concurrently, e.g. Swedish for immigrants and university studies
- Facilitate studies in several languages in parallel
- Facilitate the creation of personal study plans comprising a blend of courses from different suppliers of training and education

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Goals …

- Develop the design and content of Popular Adult Education by adding a university dimension
- Develop ways to raise the interest in higher education amongst children and young people from non-academic backgrounds
- Create a transnational network to exchange experience and know-how within the different project areas
- Create virtual support environments in order to enable adults to start up new companies

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Be a catalyst for

- Implementation of the concept of the Open University in Sweden, based on the needs of the target groups
- Development of a study environment for multilingual virtual international education and communication
- Development of processes for and implementation of the ”third goal” of Swedish higher education (interaction with the local community)
- Development of an incubator environment for start-up companies with multilingual information support

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In order to realize the goals

- Examine the regulations and how they are applied and propose necessary changes
- Build networks with and between educators and between local centres of education or qualified teachers
- Develop forms of co-operation with Open Universities in Finland, UK and other countries
- Encourage co-operation and initiation of new nodes, centres of education, virtual campuses etc
- Encourage interaction between different actors and sectors of the education system

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In order to ..

- Develop flexible vocational training courses for adults with basic and continuing training in a lifelong learning cycle -with machmaking against professions where there is a shortage of qualified persons
- Contribute to development of learning environments
- Contribute to the development of the upper secondary school´s individual program as a model for the school of the future
- Stimulate and encourage children and young people in further education

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Target groups

- Unemplyed people
- Immigrants
- The professionally active (specially in SMEs)
- Youngsters
- Children

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Sub-projects

- **Sub-project 1**: System of regulations and funding of studies, evaluation
- **Sub-project 2** Development of local learning support environments - Learning Centres in big town environments
- **Sub-project 3**: Course development - IT-pedagogical and -methodological issues
- **Sub-project 4**: Matching to labour market, Start-up of new companies (Additional project - no money from this project)
- **Sub-project 5**: Children and youngsters
- **Sub-project 6**: Development of new nodes e.g.
  1. Music Therapy Centre 2. The Archipelago Academy

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Innovation in the project:

- Education and training based on the target group´s needs
- Realization of the Open University in Sweden
- Non traditional networks
- Unique partnership that represents a broad network within education sector and constitutes a good foundation for strong support from the research community as well as the possibility to influence regulations at a national level
- New ways to stimulate higher studies and entrepreneurship

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Innovation …

- Unique possibilities for problem-solving through connections to highly innovative environments
- A broad transnational network and a target group with unique qualifications
- Non-traditional partnership to develop an interest in higher education amongst children and young people
- Technical solutions arising from new research will be tested

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Effects:

- **Level of the individuals** – the ability to study what, when, how and where you want and in whichever language will imporove self-confidence and reduce discrimination

- **The local level** – full access to education in towns, islands or rual areas, without the need to allocate special schools for the purpose.

- **The level of society**
  - Reforming the education system.
  - New groups will be recruited
  - Create a competition between actors e g universities nationally and internationally, private actors etc.

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Dissemination issues

- models for open flexible learning
- models for study plans where diffenent actors are involved
- models for studies at different languages at the same time
- models for thematical collaboration between actors, methodically, organizationally and economically
- models for training with job-guarantee
- models for collaboration between primary school and university
- models for buildning new partner groups
- models for transnational collaboration

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Transnational co-operation

- The project is developed together with the University of Åbo Akademi University and Midt i Norden

- Transnational partnership with:
  1) Catania in Italy,
  2) Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in UK – including Oporto in Portugal and Tampere in Finland
  3) British Refugee Council in London

- With Finland – (Turku) a special agreement about evaluation.

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Aims of the transnational network:

- Exchange experience and know-how within the different project areas
- Jointly develop models for new study environments that satisfy the demands of new target groups
- Enable foreign educators to become established in Sweden in order to satisfy the current needs of the population
- Enable inhabitants of participant countries to make use of each other´s flexible education systems
- Implement courses for minority groups that can be available to several countries
- Influence Sweden and the EU to create models for internatio-nal systems of payments for transnational distance studies

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Aims of the ”Learning Sauna” transnational work
(UK – Black Country)

- Learning environments, exchange of experiences, research etc.
- Learning ambassadors, motivation and engagement
- Empowerment, self learning, decision making, self evaluation,
- Learning concepts – life long learning, open and flexible learning, alternative learning, learning customized for target groups, client orientated, edutainment etc.
- Physical interface – CD, Web, TV, games, chat rooms, video conference etc
- Share methodologies and results
- Organize workshops and seminars
- Study visits and staff exchange
- Produce reports and guidelines

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Aims of the ”Virtual Open Academy” transnational work (Italy)

- Systems to identify training plans in SMEs
- Joint development of training plans
- Motivation and engagement of staff at SMEs
- Learning organizations, self evaluation to support life long learning and business competitivness
- Learning concepts – life long learning, open and flexible learning, alternative learning, learning customized for target groups, client orientated, edutainment etc.
- Benchmarking - exchange information and experiences
- Tools for evaluate and certify competence in SMEs
- Organize workshops and seminars
- Study visits and staff exchange
- Produce reports and guidelines

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Aims of the ” Open Global Learning” transnational work (UK-British Refugee Council)

- Systems to improve the conditions for early immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers for orientation towards the labour market
- Joint development of of new study environments satiesfies the demands of the target group – Learning environments at camps?
- Enable individuals to make use of each others´ flexible education systems
- Create training courses for those advising or teaching these target groups
- Benchmarking - exchange information and experiences
- Influence European practice and policy development on appropriate models for international open and distance learning systems
- Organize workshops and seminars
- Study visits and staff exchange
- Produce reports and guidelines

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The most caracteristic of the partnership:

- Empowerment – a solid participation by individuals and organisations
- A clear element of equality – to fit the needs of disadvantaged groups in society
- A thematic innovation – the concept of the Open University
- Will affect society at all levels
- Geographically broad in the pilot phase and can be reproduced
- Assumes transnational co-operation

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Summary

- Kista Open Academy will realize the concept of the Open University in Sweden.
- Its overall goal is to counteract social, economic and ethnic segregation by providing qualified education adapted to the needs and interests of the disadvantaged groups.
- Implementation of the project is founded on flexible education systems, collaboration with universities, public and private education, the experience of the Popular Adult Education organisations and modern information technology.
- Open and flexible education and training to all who can and wish to study

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Summary…

- Lifelong learning based on the needs of the individual
- A way to counteract unemployment, discrimination and segregation for ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers as well as inhabitants of rural areas and the islands.
- No geographical boundaries
- Give children and youngsters the opportunity at an early stage to become interested in higher education
- A network organisation between national and transnational partnership

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The partners

- Kista Borough, Central Adm. – part of the Stockholm City
- Järfälla Municipality
- Sollentuna Municipality
- City of Stockholm, Economic Development Agency
- City of Stockholm, Integration Administration
- City of Stockholm – the Education Administration, Västerorts Komvux (Adult Education - Upper Secondary School)
- The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)
- The Stockholm University
- The Royal College of Music
- Åbo Akademi University, Further Education Centre, Finland
- Midt i Norden, Norway
- Kista Upper Scondary School
- IT-Upper Secondary School

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- Kurdish National Association
- The Cooperation group for Iranian Associations in Sweden
- Kista Employment Office
- The ABF, Workers´ Educational Association, Sthlm
- Lernia AB
- Language Services, Interverbum AB
- IT-IUC Nordväxt, Association of companies
- Nova Distance AB
- Iranian Association, Stockholm County
- The Association of the Archipelago
- Sorsele Municipality
- Nyföretagarcentrum in Kista
- Xpandia Vision, Economic Association

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Achieved results until April 2003

National level:

- Working partnership (26 partners) and organization with regular meetings and involvmet into different activities
- Four development groups working:
  - Regulations and evaluation
  - Learning Centres
  - Course development
  - Youngster and children
- Learning centre established in Kista, Sollentuna and Järfälla
- All three centres are members in NITUS, the last one from May 2003
- The first offers of distance learning are delivered by learning centres
- Two courses from Open University in Åbo are on the programme
- An educational fair with about 20 exhibitors has been held in Kista
- Tools for dissemination and information have been produced
- Disseminating activities has been done on seminars and conferences
- Creation of 5 new projects and start of a Music Therapy Centre

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Achieved results until April 2003

Transnational level:

- Working partnership and organization with with all transnational partners
- **Transnational groups will be definitily formed from June 2003**:
  - Black Country – focusing questions about learning environments
  - Italy – focusing SME development issues
  - British Refugee Council – focusing immigrant issues mainly educational and environmental questions
- **Seminars and workshops – exchange of experiences**
  - One transnational seminar with workshops in Dudley in UK
  - Two seminars with workshops in Kista with a ”bottom-up perspective
    one with Br. Ref. C. – immigrant issues, education and state of the art
    one with Black Country – learning environment issues
- **Planning meetings**
  Four with Black Country, three with Br. Ref. C and two with Italy

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Contact persons:

- **Carin Flemström** - carin.flemstrom@kista.stockholm.se
- **Rashid Chowdhury** - rashid.chowdhury@kista.stockholm.se
- **Ebba Träskelin** - ebba.traskelin@novadistance.se

Homepage:

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