

EQUAL: LEARNING SAUNA
End user Requirements, Thematic Group

Preliminary interim report

The lead partner for this theme is the SE.
The members of the group are:

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The members represent each of the involved project and countries except of Tampere, Finland (associated partner) and we meet regularly.

Aims & Objectives

The agreement identified the following:

Name of the activity	Description
1. End User Requirements [research]	Share methodologies and results of such methodologies Organise workshops/seminars Exchange of information/research and good practice regarding ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers Conference to disseminate Produce reports On-line learning cluster Home page linked to workgroups

Problem to be solved :

- Methodologies to collect data about obstacles and best practice in end user requirements of our target groups. [content, management, rules, systems, evaluation tools, client evaluation, self evaluation, social added value etc.]
- Learning concepts; Open and flexible lifelong learning, Alternative learning, Learning customised for target groups, Client orientated.
- Validation

Goals :

This network has agreed to work together to benefit from the following activities in End user requirements:

Transnational exchange of experiences, benchmarking and comparison of rules and systems and share of good practice. The partners will benefit from synergies resulting from good work.

Access different approaches / solutions to the same problem.

Work across countries to pilot and test new ideas and new tools

Opportunity to influence policy makers

Networking for future collaboration

Equal opportunities for all adults in life long learning - Empowerment and equality for our target groups.

What do we need to do?

1. Research and evaluate methodologies for making clear what prevent adults to participate in higher education and learning opportunities. To focus on visualizing obstacles which marginalise our target groups within societies and on working places, particularly people with changing identities and from diverse cultures
2. Share experiences, benchmark and compare our national results and observations and also our best practice in our transnational partnership
3. Encourage and support joint working between projects from our partnership, where there are common themes. Write reports, publish our results on the homepage and e.g. in leaflets, and influence politicians and decision makers to set aside and change rules to support our target groups in their life long learning.

What do we need to produce?

- A description from individual projects about obstacles that prevent our target groups from further education as well as good practice in supporting open and flexible learning/higher education for them.
- Analysis of the obstacles visualizing the most necessary end user requirements within our countries, to identify what has to be changed to open up for higher education for all, it could e.g. be necessary to change actual rules and develop new support systems.
- A report with a summary of end users requirements that are necessary to change before our targetgroups will be able to become implicated (mixed up) in a life long learning where equal opportunities can be realized.
- An easy guide to visualize rules and prerequisite that our target groups need to know to get help and to engage and motivate new learners, also highlighting some good examples from the Learning Sauna partnership.

- Material to influence politicians and decision makers in seminars and in direct contact with them.
- Disseminate our results to all partners.
- Evaluate the results.

Achievements and Outcomes to date

- Portugal:
- UK:
- SE: Following have been collected and reports have been made:
 - Identification of obstacles and some examples of good practise/ ideas how to overcome obstacles – in English
 - Kartläggning av hinder ... Swedish version a bit more detailed
 - Description of the Open University in Finland – in Swedish
 - Financing of adult education in Sweden and Finland (two reports) – in Swedish
 - Qualification requirement for foreign students (to Swedish universities) – in Swedish
 - Interrim report – in Swedish
 All reports are on the homepage.

Certain preliminary findings have been made:

- Portugal:
- UK:
- SE: In Sweden in general the universities try to raise more obstacles instead of minimalizing them for our target groups by putting up new and special rules for participating into different courses. Lack of language knowledges are a big barrier for immigramts to be accepted on higher education at the same time that students from abroad are getting help and are welcome at all universities without any Swedish language knowledges.
Distance studies are accepted for students grants if the student is Swedish citisen and live abroad but if a Swedish student live in Sweden and like to study by distance in an university in an other country he/she is not getting anything.

Staff exchange

Not so far.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Will be done later this spring