

# IMPLEMENT

**Project Title:  
Implementing Lifelong Learning Universities  
through training and development**

Progress Report

Public Part

## Project information

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## Executive Summary - IMPLEMENT: <http://implement.eucen.eu>

From “rhetoric to practice“ to “make LLL a reality“. This aim remains a key priority on the European policy agenda while offering crucial challenges in professional practice for all educational institutions and stakeholders. But how can universities do justice to their responsibility and role as “important social actors contributing to the better integration of adult learners, in particular through the recognition of informal and non-formal learning”? How could universities be supported “to invest more in services for learners” and to “better use their partnerships and effectively communicate the results of their cooperative activities”? How can they become truly LLL universities?

The highly praised results of the BeFlex Plus project ([www.eucen.eu/BeFlexPlus/index.html](http://www.eucen.eu/BeFlexPlus/index.html)) made clear recommendations in response to these questions and produced excellent training materials as a valuable learning resource **targeted at university staff and their partners and stakeholders** – both actual and potential - to reflect on their institutional situation, to develop action plans, and to IMPLEMENT changes. The materials cover 5 key topics:

- Diversity in LLL
- Institutional Development
- Curriculum in partnership
- Regional development
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Over 2 years (January 2011 to December 2012) the IMPLEMENT project **aims** to further disseminate and actively exploit the results of the BeFlex Plus project. The **approach** is based **on** the idea that the potential for transfer and implementation is strongest when key partners are supported to act as multipliers, to adapt and to work with the materials according to their own needs and the specifics of their home university and national context. The **objectives** are:

- to add value to the existing training materials on the 5 topics by adapting them to national needs, using them in real training at institutional, national and transnational events, and
- to develop and deliver an online version of each topic in order to provide a **sustainable and dynamic solution for the longer term exploitation** of the learning resources and best practice examples.

At the end of this **Year 1**, the **results** achieved are:

- the materials adapted and piloted at institutional events in 4 countries
- 16 new case studies prepared and used as resources in these sessions
- transnational workshops held in Genoa (IT)
- checklists prepared for engaging learners and for using case studies in training

- a first draft of the on-line version of one of the topics – RPL – presented in a transnational event (Genoa, IT) and feedback obtained
- dissemination presentations made in international settings (Granada (ES) and Genoa (IT) and leaflets distributed widely
- a public website for dissemination set up: <http://implement.eucen.eu>
- an internal management site for the development of the on-line tools set up on moodle

In **Year 2**, we **plan** to:

- hold a further institutional event will be held in the University of Graz (AT)
- develop all 5 topics in on-line versions that will be sustainable
- deliver a face-to-face workshop on the topic of Curriculum in partnership and present a draft of the on-line version of the topic Regional development at a trans-sectoral event in Graz in May 2012
- deliver all 5 topics in face-to-face and on-line versions in a transnational event in Malta in early November 2012
- undertake full-scale dissemination using a range of tools including social networking

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# 1. Project Objectives

## AIMS:

1. to support the realisation of the European area for Lifelong Learning, particularly in higher education
2. to support the implementation of Lifelong Learning Universities in reality
3. to exploit the results and products – the training materials – from the BeFlex Plus project

## OBJECTIVES:

1. to cooperate with key players from university and other sectors acting as multipliers, to adapt the training materials for their institutional, regional and national contexts.
2. to develop a sustainable set of on-line training tools ensuring best use of the project results with a wider group of providers and key stakeholders across Europe
3. to use the materials in training events at local, national and transnational level for the professional development of LLL staff and the implementation of institutional policy and best practice for LLL.
4. to promote transnational collaboration across Europe and trans-sectoral cooperation at regional level
5. to exchange best practice on key LLL topics

## 2. Project Approach

The **approach** of the IMPLEMENT project is based on key principles:

- (i) that the potential for effective dissemination, valorisation and transfer of knowledge is strongest when consortium partners are supported to act as multipliers
- (ii) that by adapting training materials to the needs and specificities of their home university and national context, partners will develop a sense of ownership for the training materials and the project, which is crucial for the project's success.
- (iii) that peer review and review by external experts is the key to quality of the products
- (iv) that training materials should be flexible and adaptable to specific target groups, institutional and national contexts in order to reach beyond the partnership in the project
- (v) that learning takes place increasingly through the delivery of on-line training materials

In order to turn these principles into reality, the following **methodology** has been adopted:

- 1) Each topic has a lead partner
- 2) Each topic leader creates at least 2 new case studies (an institutional one and a national one) in their specific theme to enhance the existing training materials with examples fitting to their national and regional contexts. The case studies include a number of questions, learning points, issues for discussion that can be adopted to the specific context in which the case study is used.
- 3) The project partners form a learning community for peer review and they interact with their institutional regional and national networks, including external stakeholders to disseminate, test and get feedback on the emerging results.
- 4) Experts in teaching and learning work with experts in the technology to develop the courses
- 5) The on-line versions of the materials are tested in transnational and trans-sectoral events and feedback on the early topics impacts on the development of later topics
- 6) The testing and piloting with 'real participants' serves not only to improve the results but to disseminate them.

**The external evaluator** acts as a ‘critical friend’ who independently designs the tools for the evaluation of the management process and the emerging products, collects feedback from participants in the training and project partners and feeds it back to the project teams in a constructive way to **enhance the quality** of the final products. A summative evaluation will also be undertaken to assess the final products.

General **dissemination and exploitation** strategy:

Apart from the institutional, national and international and trans-sectoral events, the general dissemination and exploitation strategy includes:

- the project website (<http://implement.eucen.eu>), regularly updated, informing about the project’s progress,
- the distribution of project leaflets and the exhibition of the project poster at various international LLL conferences
- social networking tools to ‘spread the word’ about events and activities.
- a policy document aimed at managers and those responsible for staff and institutional development
- an article for publication in an international journal with a readership of researchers, policy makers and professional practitioners
- recruitment of the target groups for the final event to serve as multipliers



### 3. Project Outcomes & Results

**Checklists** of techniques for engaging learners and for selecting, writing and delivering case studies in training have been produced by experts to support the further development and adaptation of the materials

**16 case studies** have been produced – a minimum of 2 for each topic and from all the partner countries. These have been reviewed by the experts in teaching and learning in order to ensure that they are directly relevant to the training activities

**Institutional events** piloting the training materials in a specific institutional and national context have been held in 4 countries (DE, DK, EE, UK) and in a 5<sup>th</sup> (FR) an institutional process based on a number of meetings of a working group has been established. A further institutional event in Graz (AT) has had to be re-scheduled for 17 January 2012 due to illness. The 5 topics addressed (a different one in each of the countries undertaking these events) are:

- Diversity in LLL (AT and FR)
- Institutional Development (DE)
- Curriculum in partnership (UK)
- Regional development (EE)
- Recognition of Prior Learning, RPL (DK)

**Transnational workshops** on the topic of RPL were held in Genoa in November 2011 including a first draft of the on-line version of this topic to obtain feedback (see below)

**Dissemination activities** have been held:

- Presentation in Granada (ES) in May 2011 in a conference strand on the topic of diversity in ULLL. The IMPLEMENT project was presented at the beginning of the workshop strand “European targets for widening participation for minorities” , which was closely connected to the IMPLEMENT topics of Exploring diversity and the Recognition of Prior Learning. Further case studies in relation to these topics were presented and participants were invited to take part in the upcoming IMPLEMENT workshops at the EUCEN autumn conference 2011.
- Presentation in Genoa (IT) in November 2011 to members of the Italian national network for ULL.
- Two transnational workshops of the mock-up version of the topic RPL with two different groups of international participants during the Genoa conference

- Submission of an abstract for the call of contributions at the two above conferences. Subsequent poster sessions in both events, targeting a specific group of participants with the objective of disseminating the further project activities
- Leaflets distributed at several international events (in Spain, Italy and France)
- Creation of an internal Moodle version by P8, the University College of London, as a follow-up of the institutional training event and as an institutional information tool about the project's progress.

A **project website** has been set up as focus for the dissemination of events, activities and results: <http://implement.eucen.eu>

**Work has begun on converting the 5 topics to on-line versions** – this will be completed in year 2 of the project. The 5 topics are:

- Diversity in LLL
- Institutional Development
- Curriculum in partnership
- Regional development
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

**Planning has begun** for:

- workshops at national events in 5 countries in 2012
- face-to-face and on-line training workshops on 2 topics in May 2012 in Graz (AT)
- workshops combining face-to-face and on-line participants on all 5 topics in November 2012 in Malta (MT)

## 4. Partnerships

The project partners are:

- EUCEN (BE) – coordinator
- Bibby Rumblelow Ltd (UK) – experts in the development of training materials
- University of Graz (AT) – leader on the topic of Diversity in ULLL
- University Blaise Pascal (FR) – 2<sup>nd</sup> partner on the topic of Diversity in ULLL
- University of Mainz (DE) – leader on the topic of Institutional development
- National Knowledge Centre for Validation of Prior Learning (DK) – leader on the topic of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- University of Tallinn (EE) – leader on the topic of Regional development
- University College London (UK) – leader of the topic of Curriculum in partnership
- IL3, University of Barcelona (ES) – experts in on-line learning
- University of Minho (PT) – lead partner for the technical work of creating the on-line versions and supporting tools
- University of Genoa (IT) – host of workshops in Genoa and partner meeting
- University of Malta – host of final event with face-to-face and on-line workshops on all 5 topics

A strong and effective partnership has developed between all 12 project partners, most of whom had not met before. The partnership includes universities as sites of LLL and users of the training materials, but also experts in teaching and learning (Bibby Rumblelow Ltd) and in on-line learning (Universities of Barcelona and Minho). Most of the universities are actively involved in the national networks for ULLL and in regional groupings with other educational sectors, enterprises, public bodies and voluntary organisations.

In two of the topics in particular - Curriculum in partnership led by the UK partner and Regional development led by the EE partner – external stakeholders are involved in the case studies and in the delivery of the topics in training events.

In the training events in year 2, partners and contacts of the topic leaders from other sectors – vocational training, adult education, voluntary sector, enterprises – will be invited to provide input into the training events in Graz and Malta to reinforce the existing partnerships and create new ones with the participants of the training events.

## 5. Plans for the Future

In year 2 (2012), the training materials on all 5 topics listed below will be fully developed both as face-to-face events in different contexts and as on-line versions.

- Diversity in LLL
- Institutional Development
- Curriculum in partnership
- Regional development
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The final event of the project in Malta in November 2012 will be very ambitious and will combine transnational and trans-sectoral participants in face to face sessions with others participating in real time at a distance on-line.

A full-scale dissemination strategy will be implemented including the use of social networking tools.

The face-to-face and on-line versions will be developed in a sustainable way to have a life after the end of the project funding.

## 6. Contribution to EU policies

Europe has not reached the agreed objectives of the Lisbon process (Education and Training 2010). Investment and co-operation of Member States have not been as high as was expected, in particular in the field of lifelong learning. Although some progress has been made, Member States have not reoriented their educational systems in order to make the shift from traditional educational provision to the combination of diverse learning opportunities that are more process and outcome oriented. Diversity and inequities between countries are not taken into account sufficiently between countries, regions and institutions. The EC's draft strategy paper for 2020 suggested that universities should become the 'true engine for knowledge and growth', implying 'closer co-operation with business' but also with the society/community in general, and the adoption of 'a more open attitude to change'. Sustainable development needs more attention in the involvement of the maximum of actors to establish "networked universities" promoting, in synergy with other actors, new activities closer to local stakeholders and populations and acting as dynamos of local/regional innovation and creativity. The IMPLEMENT project will contribute to the achievement of these goals.

In particular, the project contributes to the achievement of specific objectives of the Lifelong Learning Programme:

- The whole project is focused on transnational cooperation between Universities for LLL and other stakeholders - particularly in the topic `Curriculum in partnership` and `Regional collaboration`. Other stakeholders, in the adult education sector, enterprises and professional associations will be closely involved. Thus the project will address the target groups of Grundtvig, Leonardo and Erasmus (KA4-SpObj-a).
- The whole project is devoted to supporting the implementation and realisation of Lifelong Learning Universities (LLUs) in Europe (LLP-Obj-b).
- The training materials are designed for staff and institutional development of LLL in universities and thereby improve the quality of learning, the diversity of learners (KA4-SpObj-b) and promote equality between different groups (Discr)
- Since the training materials were originally developed with the support of the 'Modernisation of Universities' element of the LLP, this project to adapt, test and convert them to on-line workshops ensures that the results are recognised (KA4-SpObj-c) and encourages the best use of those results as a unique resource to exchange good practice (LLL-Obj-k)
- The training materials will be developed at institutional and national level in 5 countries with the support and involvement of regional and national networks, and at European level by EUCEN, the largest European network for University Lifelong Learning (KA4-MulPrj-9)

- The testing and adaptation of the materials by key actors at institutional, national and European level will help to embed the learned practice in the participating institutions thus effectively valorising the results (KA4-KA4)
- The conversion of the training materials into on-line self-learning tools within a web infrastructure will offer sustainability for the results of the project (KA4-MulPrj-7)



