

The OWL Project in London – February 2010

Report

1. The purposes of the programme for the OWL meeting in London were :

- To introduce to partners the system of Education and training of England
- To reflect on what learning the OWL project in London and overall had generated
- To develop a programme for the final dissemination conference in Rome in the summer

2. The Programme February 24th to 26th

24th February

At the Institute of Education, University of London (IoE) Centre for Excellence in Work Based Learning for Education Professionals (WLE)

11,30am Welcome and introductions, the programme Jack Peffers

11,45am Dr Norbert Pachler The WLE - what it does and how it does it?

12,45pm Lunch in the Lawton Room inside the IoE

2 pm Dr David Guile and Maria Cristina Migliore
“Older Workers in Learning- Two typologies to make sense of the UK and Europe’s systems”

Discussion of the typologies facilitated by the presenters

3.45pm Break

4 pm Lesley Burgess and Andy Ash
The English Education and Training system - an overview

Discussion and questions facilitated by the presenters

6 - 6,45pm Debriefing the learning of this day

7,30/ 8 pm Dinner in local restaurant organised by Lesley and Andy

25th February

At Uxbridge College of Further Education, Hayes Campus

8,30 am To Uxbridge Further Education College. Maria Cristina Migliori will be at your Hotel to pick you up and we will travel by tube, train and bus to go to Uxbridge College of Further Education - Hayes Campus

10 am Arrive at Uxbridge Further Education College

10 am Campus Tour - Lorraine Collins, Executive Director

10,30am Input on the 'general background and employer engagement', Lorraine Collins, Executive Director

11,30 am 'Information Advice and Guidance for adult learners'
Kiran Rami , Head of Student Services

12,30 Discussion

1pm Lunch, Lifestyles Restaurant

2pm 'Programmes for Older Learners in Work'
Harpal Lehal, Head of Employer Services

2,30pm Marketing for this target group
John Le Sturgeon, Marketing Co-ordinator

3pm Corporate Social Responsibility –developing a policy
Lorraine Collins

3,30 Discussion

4pm Depart from Uxbridge Further Education College

7pm - Dinner at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club. The IoE will cover our guests entry fee but individuals will cover their dinner and drinks-

26th February

At the Institute of Education, University of London (IoE) Centre for Excellence in Work Based Learning for Education Professionals (WLE)

9,30am Dr Norbert Pachler- Debriefing the Learning of the visit to the UK and of the OWL project as a whole

10,30am Groups working on what they learnt in UK and in the OWL project as a whole that they want to pass on via the Rome Dissemination Conference in later June

11,30 Groups report back

12,30 Tullio Colombo - Roma Conference arrangements

13.45 Lawton lunch and depart

3. Comments regarding the programme from the OWL team included:

- The programme met its objectives but was truncated at times to allow the programme to fit the time available so unfortunately at times discussion was shortened.
- The contributions of each institution visited threw light on the system of education and training
- The academic inputs at the IoE were stimulating for most of the participants
- The inputs at Uxbridge College of FE were very well received by all participants
- The visit to Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club was enjoyed by most colleagues

4. Next steps regarding the conference, the OWL team agreed:

It would be in Italy probably Rome or maybe Florence on July 2nd unless it had to be on 25th of June

The **programme structure** presented by Tullio Colombo was supported though it was suggested that the programme have the following different inputs from partners either side of lunch

Learning in relation to work – led by Maria Cristina Migliore (anglo IT group)

Research and Innovation – led by team DE (Norbert who is attending could contribute here)

Who are older workers – led by team SE

Barriers and facilitators to Older workers in Learning – led by team PL

Difficulties and possible ways of transferring an idea from one country to another – led by team UK

All agreed

- to write to theme leaders with our thoughts about the theme and what should be presented
- that there should be a deliberate attempt to increase the time in discussion groups for Italian participants
- that there'd be a half day project team meeting the day after the Conference for review and forward planning including the Final Report

5. Evaluation

At the end of the meeting an evaluation took place regarding what light the OWL programme in London had thrown onto the 3 key issues the project team had agreed were important to look at through each project. The written evaluations produced the following comments:

A. How Can Learning among different actors take place?

- Communication between the different actors, explanation of different attitudes, experiences
- Making experiences and knowledge transparent
- Providing appropriate conditional framework eg openness, learning environment, tolerance
- Working on promoting better learning conditions
- Early involvement of the different actors in the organisation of the learning process
- Need to involve company, trade union and public
- University trade union collaboration
- Long term planning and financing
- ITC
- Taking account of cultural differences
- training providers must play an active part in contacting employers and potential students (as shown at Uxbridge)
- all within local communities: educators, learners, employers, trade unions to be closer
- the role of education is innovation in relationships and teaching and learning
- communication is important
- to see what other people do in workplaces important
- for learning there is need to have experience, reflect and ask about applications to own reality
- must be win win for all sectors employers trade unions learners
- important to clarify language
- common instruments / tools
- more involvement of more information and the whole community

B. How can transnational Learning be transferred into national/local context?

- Participation of national/local actors in the transnational (early involvement eg via conferences , seminars etc)
- The essentials of transnational learning need to be summarised in a way which meets the needs of the important questions of national/local actors (problem- based provisions and help answering local/national questions
- Agree rights from the education system across Europe
- Reduction of the role of bureaucracy
- Actual co-operatiion between business trade unions and education not just Committees
- Impossible to transfer directly but we can see in this transnational project that problems are similar. It is a chance to receive ideas and consider how to implement them into our reality
- It is difficult but observe and adapt to regulations culture
- for transfer of the experience and its learning there is need to have experience, reflect and ask about applications to own reality
- same demographics does not necessarily lead to transfer because of the differences in structure, culture and history
- mixed teams of trainers from a variety of countries would help transfer
- learning from one context is difficult when applying to another because of different ways in which organisations function
- need both experience and learning and policy level endorsement for transfer

C. Do you have any suggestions on the further development that could be taken by the promoters of this WBL example

- The examples, especially the theoretical approach (eg the presentation of the types of learning) should be further developed and find usable tools and instruments for the practical implementation eg:
 - * How to design learning arrangements or how to structure work arrangements in order to enhance WBL
 - * what about the shift in the role of teacher/trainer
- we need concrete examples for the practice
- Uxbridge sell more consultancy of their expertise to employers
- looking at existing definitions in EU as of 50 +

Jack Peffers, 1st of March 2010 r.