

NANSSI

KEY POINTS FROM THE LAUNCH EVENTS

The project was officially launched:

UK: 11th May 2011 at the House of Commons, London

THE NETHERLANDS: 20th May 2011 at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Welfare (OCW), The Hague

This short report summarises the key points from the launch events which will be taken forward into the seminars and used to inform the outcomes from the project.

At both launches there was a considerable interest about the project, represented by an excellent turnout which exceeded expectations at both events. The different approaches to the launch exemplified well the different cultures associated with taking learning forward, but each was able to encourage active participation of guests from the respective visitors. As an overarching outcome, it was clear that linking projects and identifying lessons learned from other national and international projects is the key to success.

Based on the launch events, the themes to be taken forward into the project are:

- understanding different approaches to working with young people who have 'graduated' from school but are insufficiently qualified to contribute effectively to the labour market; (driven by the experience of The Netherlands)
- tackling basic skills (including employability) issues of some adults, who do not have the qualifications (or confidence) to enable them to find employment
- the vital importance of working internationally to consider lessons learned and to address the European skills deficit; which may be partly hidden by the free labour market, essential to impact positively on the more vulnerable in society
- the necessity for all already in the labour market and all wishing to enter it to keep up with changing technologies so that they are employment-ready
- increasing opportunities afforded by social media to engage the hard to reach
- the speed of skills development requiring all to be flexible and embrace change
- complementing skills development with opportunities for individuals who are marginalised to build their levels of confidence and self-esteem
- recognising that participation does not necessarily lead to social inclusion
- the importance of developing a common VET language so that educators, providers and learners in EU member state countries can maximise opportunities by working across national boundaries
- tackling youth and adult unemployment through working with agencies outside education and training – especially employment services

Participants at each event came forward to express an interest in contributing to or attending seminars which would take the work forward.

AOC and MBO Raad thank the two hosts and all the participants for their interest in the NANSSI project and look forward to meeting many again at future project events.