The Learners' Voice

The Learners' Voice is a project supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers' programme in the area of lifelong learning, Nordplus Voksen.

The purpose of this project is to increase the quality of adult learning and to motivate for learning by involving the learners in the developing of learning methods.

What is it about?

Lifelong learning is about the citizens' opportunity and ability to realize their ambitions and to participate in building a better society. The project *Learning ambassador - listens to the learners´ voice*, wish to involve the adult learners in the planning of lifelong learning activities. The main purpose is to increase the quality of learning and to motivate for learning. The learners are experts of using the education system; they have experiences which should be utilized in the development of lifelong learning provision. They can promote the advantage of learning to others by acting as champion and role model and attract the attention of the media.

In this project partners and the learners will develop a training model where important issues will be communication skills, social skills, and team working skills. The aim is to learn to present a message in a personal, professional and reflective way.

Who are the learners?
The learners are different persons with different backgrounds and different experiences. They are living in different conditions and have their own goals with their learning. The main challenge in adult learning is to meet the learners on their own premises and to use their experiences as a pedagogical advantage. So it is of importance that the learners in this project have different backgrounds and have met different learning challenges.

The learners´ voice
Learners can take part in activities at different levels and with different objectives, depending on their own circumstances and the context. The adult learners could function as enthusiasts; talking to groups of future adult learners about what learning has been like.
They can act as mentors, as experienced and trusted advisers, as champions' telling their stories in the media, as advocates to promote the advantages of learning to different groups and to highlight important issues to professionals.

Background

- The project idea builds on a national project in Norway: From Learning hero to learning ambassador (2007 – 2008).
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- The project proposal is also inspired by the outcome of the Socrates/Grundtvig Network "International Adult Learners Week in Europe" and the report *Beating the drums for attention* whose conclusion is that it should be of fundamental principle that: "Adult learners have the right to be involved in any discussions that affect their learning lives".

- NVL (Nordic network for adult learning) has a network where learners come together to exchange experiences and discuss how they could be involved in the developing of quality in adult learning. www.nordvux.net

- The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), the UK's leading non-governmental organisation for adult learning, has made a policy paper on learners involvementLearners`involvementpolicy2007-2010
http://www.niace.org.uk/organisation/Policy.htm

Project facts
The project period is from 01.09 - 2008 until 01.09 – 2010.

There will be three meetings: Norway: October 08, Estonia: March 09, Latvia: October 09

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