EU Project: Professionalization of Literacy and Basic Education – Basic Modules for Teacher Training: TRAIN

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF LITERACY AND BASIC EDUCATION

Country of Scotland   <u>**Summary**</u>

1. General description of the situation regarding professionalisation of basic skills teachers
Following the launch of the Scottish Adult Literacy strategy in 2001, Learning Connections, part of Communities Scotland, developed a Professional Development Award which was launched by the Scottish Qualifications Authority in 2003. It was targeted at tutor assistants and people new to adult literacy and was the first national qualification available in Scotland.

2. National professionalisation policy / program	
Description	Professional Development Award – Introduction to Adult Literacies Learning
Priorities / Aims / goals	The PDA Award aims to: Promote self-determination Develop an understanding of literacies Recognise and respect difference and diversity Promote participation Develop equitable, inclusive and anti-discriminatory practice Develop informed practice Draw on partnerships
Target group(s)	Inexperienced and new adult literacy tutors
time span	The three units are usually delivered over a number of months to allow participants time for reflection on their practice
financial resources	The cost of the programme depends on the provider in Scotland, many institutions provide the PDA award and the cost of the award varies from one institution to another.

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3. Current situation for literacy trainers / practitioners

Learning Connections (part of the Scottish Executive) is involved in developing a new degree level programme for adult literacy tutors and this is due to be launched in 2007. If adult literacy tutors do not already have a degree level qualification they are not eligible for full time teaching positions within the Further Education sector in Scotland. Adult Literacy tutors who possess the PDA award are employed on a part-time basis to support literacy learners however the part-time roles would not be on a comparable level to fully qualified teachers.

4. Description of Best Practice / literacy teacher course

Name	Professional Development Award – Introduction to Adult Literacies Learning
target groups	New and inexperienced adult literacy practitioners
duration	Usually over a 6 month period, sometimes longer
qualification/level	Level 6 on the Scottish National Framework – Bologna Short Cycle
Goal	To prepare new adult literacy tutors to work as tutor assistants in a variety of settings
content (broadly)	Adult Literacies Learning in Scotland Working with Adult Literacy Learners Learning and Teaching in Adult Literacies

5. Competences – Framework

- An understanding of adult literacies programmes in Scotland and current policies and strategy

- An ability to demonstrate a broad understanding of good practice in adult literacies provision

- An ability to demonstrate a broad knowledge and understanding of a limited range of educational theories of learning including the adult learning process

- An ability to demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of a range of teaching strategies for reading, writing and numeracy

- An appreciation of the community education approach to adult literacies

- An ability to adopt a learner-centered approach with adult learners

- Understanding how adults learn and what motivates adults to learn

- An ability to demonstrate an understanding of group working processes and approaches

- To be able to understand the role and responsibilities of the adult literacies teacher

- To possess excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to be able to relate to wide range of adult learners including those with learning difficulties

- An understanding of critical learning, reflective learning and evaluation