

## **Cracow - Paper from England April 2002-04-24**

### **1. *Strategies to motivate learners and to enable those not acquainted to learn how to participate in Lifelong Learning.***

England has invested large sums of money into research and subsequent action to ensure wider participation in Lifelong Learning. She has also passed a major piece of legislation 'The Learning and Skills Act of 2000' through Parliament to address this issue. England has set up a body 'The Learning and Skills Council' with a budget of 7 billion pounds to stimulate, develop and fund Lifelong Learning. The body has 47 local arms and its 'remit is to ensure the learning needs of local communities are identified and met. The focus is on the individual and on meeting the needs of local industry and employers

The strategies in England could be summarised as:

- Parliamentary Legislation
- A new structural body — The LSC
- Investment 7 billion pounds
- Supporting existing and new ways of learning outside of institutions e.g. The Open University and The University for Industry
- Taking learning to the community — pubs, football clubs etc
- Targeting deprived community with joined up service and learning at the heart of this work 'neighbourhood' renewal'
- Individual Learning Accounts £150 per person for the first 1 million learners
- Investing in JCT
- Investor in People — A national standard to ensure all firms are 'Learning organizations' that invest in the continual professional development of their employees at every level
- Target work on literacy, England and Wales has 5 million illiterate people — the target this year is to improve the skills of 175,000
- Sector Skills Councils which replace National Training Organisations
- Career development loans
- Small Firms Training Loans

## **2. How universal and continuing access to learning can be guaranteed. How to enable citizens to gain and renew the skills needed for sustained participation in the learning Society?**

- In England and Wales, Education is the Labour government's number one priority; Tony Blair has won two elections with the slogan 'Education, Education, Education'. Therefore universal and continuing access to learning is a major issue of development and funding for the present government.
- Renewing skills is happening on every front through many initiatives
- The Sector Skills Council is one of the key developments. Each SSC will gain 1 million pound to meet the skill development needs of their sector e.g. Hairdressing, engineering
- The government has produced a report entitled 'Meeting the sector skills and Productivity challenge'
- In the Catholic Church Canon Peter Humphey is producing work on a framework and qualifications for the skills needed in the Catholic Church. He has looked at the work done in other sectors and is modelling his work on the skills needed for a lay person to run a parish on this.

## **3. Which strategies for motivating people who have not taken part in a learning process have proved to be the most successful in England?**

- Taking learning to the learning
- Investors in People
- Career loans
- Accrediting prior learning
- All forms of work based development
- On-line and distance learning
- Mentor involvement

**4. Will participation rates increase with new learning forms such as informal learning, self-directed learning and learning enpassant?**

- Research is being carried out in England to see if this is so, or whether it is the most qualified learners who are still the most engaged.

**5. How traditional learning with courses and seminars could be connected with new learning forms. Practical examples from England.**

- The Catholic Certificate Religious Studies — setting up on-line learning across the dioceses of England and Wales
- The Post-Graduate Certificate of Education- Open University course
- Family Reading Project and libraries in a poor part of London

**6. How the role of institutions of adult education and the New learning forms and learning cultures will be considered together with the qualifications adult educators will require henceforth.**

The role of adult educators has changed. In England, Adult Education is rapidly changing with an increased role of private providers alongside traditional public sector providers. Public sector providers are now expected to be qualified teachers or instructors and a new inspectorate the ALI Adult Learning Inspectorate has been set up to look at their work. It will provide a picture of standards across the sectors. The new learning forms has meant the inclusion of people who would have previously found travelling or the hours restricting.

