



Second Chance Schools Working with Systematic Measurement of Outcomes

The "SMART" project has been launched under the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2, Strategic Partnership with a duration of 24 months – from September 2014 to July 2016. The project involves 7 partners from Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Belgium, Italy and The Netherlands, representing University, Second chance schools, regional authorities and civil society organisations.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The establishment of a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Education and Training responded to the policy goals of the "Copenhagen process" and provided a significant stepping stone in paving the road towards quality assurance in Education and Training. Reducing early school leaving (ESL) to 10% by 2020 is a key target of the EU 2020 strategy. In 2012 DGEAC commissioned research into good practices in second chance education and its success factors with a view to identifying transferability to initial education and training. The theoretical base of the study was to examine whether compensatory measures could provide a source of evidence for prevention and possibly intervention measures also. The study found that there was "strong potential" for initial education and training to learn lessons from second chance provision but that there are gaps in qualitative and quantitative measures of success to evidence the longer term effectiveness of provision designed to reduce ESL.

The SMART project aims to develop a quality framework, for use by providers of second chance education that will address the gaps identified by DGEAC and enable providers to evidence their success factors, enhancing the quality and relevance of learning offers in education, training & youth work.

The SMART project aims to develop a quality framework, for use by providers of non-formal and informal learning, that will enable providers to evidence their success factors, enhancing the quality and relevance of learning offers in education, training & youth work. Improving the capacity of organisations to deliver high quality second chance education will contribute to preventing drop-out and promote participation of disadvantaged groups in society.

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES:

- Literature Review Report
- Needs Analysis Report
- Handbook for Policy Makers
- Systematic Measurement System (SMS)
- Quality Indicators
- SMS Monitoring & Evaluation tools
- SMS E-Platform
- SMS Training Module
- Teacher's Handbook
- Guidelines for Organisations

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- To develop a quality framework, for use by providers of second chance education
- To bring together good practices in quality monitoring and measuring
- To enable providers to evidence their success factors
- To enhance the quality & relevance of learning in education, training & youth work.
- To disseminate evidence based success factors

KICK OFF MEETING AND 1ST MULTIPLIER EVENT IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK:



On 10-12 December 2014 a Kick-off meeting for SMART project took place in Copenhagen that brought together all the partners. This meeting was the first occasion for partners to meet and to discuss their future work and roles within the project, the upcoming year of activities, challenges and interventions in the field of the second chance education.

As part of the meeting on 12 December, the first Multiplier event took place with participation of over 20 stakeholders and partners in the field of second chance education (schools, counsellors, authorities) from Denmark and Sweden who had a chance to learn about the project and its objectives and the benefits of it for the second chance schools.

Main Results:

- Literature Review Report
- Needs Analysis report
- Handbook for Policy Makers
- Systematic Measurement System E-platform
- Handbook for the teachers
- Guidelines for Organisations: Implementing SMS in Second Chance Education

Next steps:

- The partners are working on the literature review report on a national level.
- Logic model exercise to be conducted by each partner
- Later on the teachers needs assessment will be conducted as part of training module development.

The next project consortium meeting is planned for 20-22 April 2015, in Palermo, Italy. All the results of the project, including the visibility and project materials will be presented at the Final Multiplier event in 2016.

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