



Newsletter

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We are now in the final phase of the project, 'Action 3' and the focus is on 'mainstreaming' the results - in simple terms, sharing our findings and best practice with the wider communities in the public and private sectors in Wales and beyond.

Our Modules include:

Age

Disability

Gender

Religion & Belief

Sexual Orientation

The Welsh Language

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ACHIEVING THE ENGAGING DIVERSITY VISION

At this final stage we're glad to report that we have achieved our vision of providing an effective awareness raising diversity eLearning programme for large organisations, according to the research carried out by University of Wales, Bangor. Up to 150 people are now using the eLearning modules every day and feedback is highly positive. Learners within some partner organisations have expressed that they now see their workplace as a diverse social organisation comprised of individuals with different needs, rather than just a single 'workforce'. A full report of the best practice findings of the project has just been published - to order a hard copy please email info@engagingdiversity.com or visit the following link for a PDF version:- <http://www.engagingdiversity.com/results/reports>

OFFICIAL ENGAGING DIVERSITY CONFERENCES

Our two dedicated one-day conferences will be the main dissemination stream for the project and are open to everyone. They take place on 29th November at the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff and on 4th December at Venue Cymru, Llandudno - early booking is recommended. The events will be a great opportunity to get up to speed on latest eLearning and diversity developments with a full programme of keynote speakers, workshops and live demonstrations. Highlights include UK learning expert

Dr John Fazey discussing the power of eLearning to build understanding of diversity plus best practice workshops revealing how partners successfully engaged their workforce with eLearning.

To book your place today please visit the following link:-

<http://www.engagingdiversity.com/events/register>

NEW ENGAGING DIVERSITY WEBSITE GOES LIVE

In addition to the conferences, our new redeveloped website www.engagingdiversity.com becomes the permanent resource for sharing knowledge and best practice from the project.

The site provides a complete overview of the project with rationale, aims, reports and success stories. Stories are a really effective way of illustrating achievements and clever approaches that have been used by partners when deploying the modules. We'll be populating this section of the website over the next few weeks and will eventually invite contributions from organisations outside the project - our long term

vision is that the site will become a best-practice knowledge base for diversity and eLearning.

FINAL TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The concluding meeting of the TNP took place from 29-30th of October and was an enjoyable opportunity to review the work undertaken and submit our final report.

Partners from Poland, Portugal and Slovakia first joined forces in 2006 with a common interest in exploring how to promote learning and communities of practice through the online environment. The new perspectives the partners brought from their respective countries and very different working environments made this a rich and interesting collaboration. The TNP has provided the entire Engaging Diversity project with a testing ground to try out effective approaches for using eCommunities. Together, the transnational partners trialed a range of approaches with different software types and user groups - some valuable best practice conclusions have been drawn, including:-

- * Knowledge sharing should be moderator-driven, respond to the needs of users and embrace the full range of approaches including live and asynchronous online activity, face to face situations, structured and informal, text and speech.
- * Communities of practice can encourage participation by offering a mix of live and asynchronous tools that inspire dialogue and sharing.
- * Online mentoring is most effective when clear learning objectives are established at the start of the relationship and when the individuals involved have the skills and resources they need to communicate effectively.
- * When working with diversity issues it is important to share cultural differences. Understanding the different perceptions that surround each of the equality and diversity strands requires an open mind.

A full version of the final TNP report can be downloaded from the TNP library at www.engagingdiversity.com.