

# News



## **Functional Skills and Young People.**

### **Prue Huddleston - OCR Newsletter**

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## **Activity and Learning Agreement Pilots – Evaluation of the 2008-9 Extension**

CEI and the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) were commissioned by DCSF to undertake the evaluation of the Activity and Learning Agreement Pilots during their extension phase. Activity Agreements (AA) pilots are designed to support and encourage disengaged 16-17 year olds back into learning, training or employment. Young people are offered a weekly allowance in return for agreeing to a plan and completing activities to integrate them back into learning. The first extended period of trialling the Activity Agreement Pilots began in April 2008 (Pilot 2) and was accompanied by a number of changes to the delivery of the initiative. These changes to local implementation were designed to increase take-up rates, among young people who are defined as NEET, as well as to test and develop approaches to support a raised participation age. There were also changes made to the variants which operated in the pilot areas.

The Learning Agreement Pilots (LAP) were targeted at 16-17 year olds in 'jobs without training' (JWT) to increase access to learning options for this group. The LAP was a joint initiative between Connexions and local Learning and Skills Councils. Within LAP, young people (and in some areas, their employers) were offered financial incentives including bonus payments and wage compensation. The LAP pilots ended in 2009.

Activity Agreements Pilots - Evaluation of the 2008 - 2009 Extension ([Research Brief](#))

Learning Agreements Pilots - Evaluation of the 2008 - 2009 Extension ([Research Brief](#))

Activity Agreements Pilots - Evaluation of the 2008 - 2009 Extension ([Research Report](#))

Learning Agreements Pilots - Evaluation of the 2008 - 2009 Extension ([Research Report](#))

## **New Publications**

Two CEI research papers are now available :

Maguire, S. & Huddleston, P. (2009) Where do young people work? *Research in Post-Compulsory Education*, 14:4 387 397

Laczik, A. & White, C. (2009) Employer engagement within 14-19 diploma development, *Research in Post-Compulsory Education*, 14:4 400 413

## **CEI's latest European project**

CEI staff are currently involved in a European project with the acronym BINNOC - formed from the rather unwieldy title of "Building Innovation Capabilities in European Business Organisations through University-Enterprise Cooperation".

In this project a partnership of universities and local enterprise organisations from Finland, Lithuania, Spain and England are working together to produce an analytical business tool with an associated training package which is designed to encourage and develop business innovation. CEI is partnered by Rotherham Youth Enterprise.

Now, one year into the project, all the national partners have started the trialling of the tool with volunteer businesses. Very positive feedback has been provided by Brussels evaluators. A special contribution from CEI has been the creation of a second mechanism, specifically targeting micro businesses. In this way, we hope that the EU will get particularly good value for money! The BINNOC project finishes in September 2010 and the materials produced should be widely available not long thereafter.



The photograph shows European partners at one of the Transnational meetings which took place in Finland last June, with Craig Grewcock, Malcolm Hoare and Peter Stagg from CEI and Jackie Frost from Rotherham Youth Enterprise in attendance.

### **Advance Notice.CEI Seminars 2010**

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### **Latest edition of Centrelink**

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