

## Education & Research Group Work Plan 2006



| NSC Education & Research Group Activity   | Action   | Responsibility                                   | Timescale  | Resources  | Output   | Updated actions following ERG meeting March 2006  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Review activities of the ERG and identify future significant areas of importance for NSC member regions in the context of Education and Research</b> | Oversee the development and implementation of the workplan of the ERG<br>Identify the political issues for action in the context of the agenda for 2010.<br>Strengthen the role for vice-chairs of the ERG | Politicians group and ERG co-ordinator           | Next meeting 13 March 2006 in Fife.<br><br>Ongoing | ERG Chair and vice-chairs' time, ERG Co-ordinator's time, supporting officers' time, travel expenses | Actions defined for political interests<br><br>Structure, objectives and strategy for ERG<br><br>Schedule and content of meetings for ERG agreed | This activity will continue because it is central to the ongoing work of the ERG. It takes place through ERG politicians meetings and ERG meetings.   |
| <b>Plan the ERG Work Programme</b>  | Ongoing review and development of actions  | Small Working Group (SWG) – convened as required | Workplan revised 28 October 2005                   |  | Practical actions for the ERG  | The Small Working Group will be discontinued.   |
|   | Review and amend as necessary the provisional Work Programme of the ERG  | Politicians group and ERG co-ordinator           | Next meeting 13 March 2006                         | Time for members of Politicians group and ERG co-ordinator   | Work Programme as approved by NSC Executive Cttee on 2 March 2006 to be put forward at the ERG meeting on 14 March 2006                          | This item was completed on 13 March 2006. The workplan has been revised as shown in this column.  |
|   | Review actions needed for implementation of the Work Programme of the ERG  | Full ERG group meeting                           | 14 March 2006                                      | Time, travel and accommodation, members of ERG   | Practical actions agreed arising from the ERG Work Programme   | Workplan actions were reviewed and revised. Responsibility for actions shared among ERG members.  |
| <b>Respond to the Lisbon Strategy, Agenda for 2010 and related matters</b>  | Continue to provide updates for ERG. Continue to develop responses including new ERG actions and actions across thematic groups  |  |  |  | Ongoing work to:<br>Update ERG group members' knowledge<br>Provide information about European funding programmes<br>Update ERG work programme    | The ERG Co-ordinator in the past has monitored the progress of the Lisbon Agenda, and the European agenda. This work is important and the ERG politicians now refer this item back to the NSC Executive Committee for a response. |

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| <p><b>Build on ERG group strengths</b></p>  | <p>New profile circulated to collate expertise and interests of group members<br/>Identify regions with no ERG representation and target for publicity. Produce summary of ERG work for sending out.<br/>Subgroups set up for actions in identified areas.</p>  |  |   |  | <p>Database of members<br/>Profiles. List of main areas of common expertise and interest<br/>Areas of activity identified.</p>  | <p>Time-consuming and difficult to make progress with this item due to inaccuracies and omissions in the NSC database. <b>Production of an accurate database is passed to the NSC Secretariat for action.</b> (The ERG will not continue the production of its own database.)</p>  |
| <p><b>Promote and encourage professional and social inclusion of young people</b></p> | <p>The following actions build on the work done at the "Lisbon seminar":<br/>Share best practice and experience<br/>Raise awareness of the importance of mobility in Europe (among professionals, and therefore aim to improve mobility of young people)<br/>Identify common challenges</p>   | <p>Lead taken by Vice Chair and supporting officer (Nord Pas de Calais)</p>  | <p>Ongoing through 2006</p>                               | <p>To be determined<br/>Sources of external funding include:<br/>Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, etc<br/>Opportunities through Interreg to be investigated</p> | <p>Comparison among the regions of approaches to improving inclusion and employability of young people.<br/>Exchange of professionals<br/>Dissemination of findings</p>   | <p>This work will continue, led by Region Nord Pas de Calais.<br/><br/>ERG and EDG co-ordinators to discuss possibilities for common actions across the ERG and EDG.</p>   |
| <p><b>Promote Lifelong Learning</b></p>   | <p>Investigate opportunities for mobility of workers and students in the "European Year of workers' mobility 2006"<br/><br/>Investigate the effect of demographic change on inclusion, employability and opportunity for learning, including:<br/>Improving work-life balance and lifestyle<br/>Developing basic skills, "soft" skills provision<br/>Promoting learning in the community, informal and non-traditional learning</p> | <p>Chairman's officer<br/><br/>ERG co-ordinator and other group members advised by the Educational Centres Association</p> | <p>Ongoing through 2006<br/><br/>Ongoing through 2006</p> | <p>To be determined<br/>Sources of external funding include:<br/>Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, etc<br/>Opportunities through Interreg to be investigated</p> | <p>Practical actions to develop work-based training opportunities (job rotation, work placement, work shadowing)<br/>Better information about the effect of demographic change<br/>Recommendations for better access for all to opportunities for learning.<br/>Guidelines for induction<br/>Guidelines for work placements</p> | <p>This work will continue, led by Fife Council, depending on the outcome of a bid for European funding already submitted by Fife Council.<br/><br/>Work on demographic change will be included in the work done by Fife Council, the Educational Centres Association also involved.<br/>There is potential for a funding bid for actions on demographic change.</p> |

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| <b>Work with other thematic groups</b> | Food conference 2006  | Culture & Tourism, EDG + ERG, (also Environment etc.) | 31 August-1 September 2006  | NSC conference grant 50,000 NK. Contribution from Dundee College (host for main sessions). ERG Co-ordinator and group members' time (Dundee College) | See C&T group work plan  | Conference planning taking place. Meeting held at Dundee College, Dundee on 15 March 2006. |
|  | North Sea schools network for international environmental sustainability project. Aim to involve 1 primary and 1 secondary school from each North Sea country | With Environment group                                | Preparatory meeting Autumn 2006<br><br>Project to run from Sept 2007 to July 2010 | Comenius funding bid to be worked up for submission by 1 February 2007 Possible additional UK funding from DeFRA                                     | Exchange of practice, seminars, production of resources etc – to be determined | Suffolk to take lead on ERG part of this project.  |