

### Lessons from Experience

This second issue offers the opportunity to give both an account of the visits to the United Kingdom and Norway, and an assessment of the six months since the activity has been in operation.

One noteworthy consequence of the experience accumulated in the course of our visits, meetings, exchanges of ideas with experts and co-ordinators in the participating countries has been the slight restructuring of the Background Report. A letter advising the country co-ordinators of the alternative structure has been sent. It should be borne in mind that the Terms of Reference originally proposed for the writing of the Background Report were to be treated as a suggested set of guidelines. The order of the sections proposed in the Terms of Reference can, as well, be adapted to better reflect the country situation.

In the revised structure the Statistical Annex is separated from the Background Report. This is to allow a common base for the Comparative Report while at the same time giving more flexibility to the countries in addressing their particular interests. For example, while the Comparative Report will be based on the 25 to 64 age group, and countries are invited to supply as many tables as possible for this group, the Background Report can give more focus to an age group that the country needs to emphasise.

Although the calendar of visits is not fixed, four countries will have been visited before Summer 2000 (Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Norway, and Sweden). This should enable a partial description of the visits to be given in the progress report to be presented to Ministers at the meeting of the Education Committee at Ministerial Level in April 2001.

We would like to thank the countries for the warm welcome extended to the expert teams during the visits and for the excellent quality of exchanges between the Secretariat and participating countries.

Patrick Werquin

### What's happening?

- In depth visits to the United Kingdom and Norway are described in the following pages.
- The visit to Sweden has just been completed (2-12 May 2000). The next newsletter will give you an account of it.

### What's new?

- *Literacy in the information Age* (Final Report on the International Adult Literacy Survey) will be available June 14. For orders contact the secretariat or the OECD bookshop at [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org).

#### Who to contact?

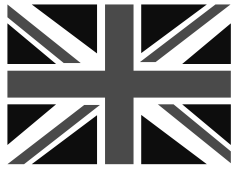
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# United Kingdom Visit

## 10-18 February



## United Kingdom

### Co-ordination

Wendy Humphreys  
Jayne Lievesley  
Andrew Milton  
Department for Education and  
Employment (DfEE)

### Background report

The Institute for Employment  
Studies and NIACE (National  
Organisation for Adult Learning)

### Steering

Tim Down, Divisional Manager,  
Individual Learning (DfEE)



## Expert team

### Rapporteur

Lex Borghans  
The Netherlands

### External experts

Maria Jesús San Segundo  
Spain

André Schläfli  
Switzerland

### OECD experts

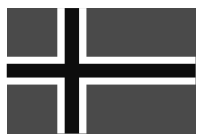
Norman Bowers  
Head of Employment Analysis and  
Policy Division

Patrick Werquin  
Principal Administrator

- Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup>** **Place : London**  
09:00-11:00 Meeting with DfEE to outline lifelong learning policy  
11:00-12:30 Meeting with Background Report Authors  
14:00-15:00 Investors in People at work **Place : Kent**  
Woolwich Building Society (UK private company with over 7800 employees)  
16:00-17:00 Representatives of Investors in People: Promotion of the Investors in People standard
- Friday February 11<sup>th</sup>** **Place : London**  
09:00-10:30 Qualifications and Curriculum Authority advising Government on curriculum, assessment and qualifications  
11:00-13:00 Ford Motor Company. Employee Development & Assistance Programme  
14:00-16:00 Further Education Funding Council: Funding priorities  
16:00-17:00 Women's Institute: Promoting a variety of working and learning activities for women
- Monday February 14<sup>th</sup>** **Place : Leicester**  
10:30-12:00 NIACE: Continuing education by improving quality of opportunities  
12:00-13:00 Adult Learning Forum a: learner's perspective  
14:00-15:00 Leicester Local Education Authority  
15:15-17:00 Leicester College: Overcoming barriers and improving participation
- Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>** **Place : Barnsley**  
11:00-13:00 Northern College for Residential Adult Education: Specifically focuses on adults  
**Place : Sheffield**  
14:00-15:00 NTONC (National Training Organisation National Council): Training for the workplace  
15:30-17:30 Ufi, Ltd: National on-line and distributed learning network
- Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup>** **Place : London**  
10:15-12:00 Advice and Guidance Pathfinder Lifetime Careers Ltd: New developments  
13:30-14:30 Worker's Educational Association: Views of a voluntary sector learning provider  
14:30-15:30 Basic Skills Agency: Basic skills agenda (from needs analysis to delivery and evaluation)  
15:30-16:30 TUC: Trade Unions' influence on learning benefits for employees  
16:30-17:30 British Chamber of Commerce: Industry's view of and interest in lifelong learning
- Thursday February 17<sup>th</sup>** **Place : London**  
09:00-10:30 University of East London: Perspectives of a higher education provider on widening participation  
10:30-12:00 Open University higher education distance learning (mainly part-time adult learners)  
14:00-15:30 New Deal Pilot: Understanding learning and employment links for the unemployed  
17:00-18:00 TEC (the National Council for Training and Enterprise Councils)
- Friday February 18<sup>th</sup>** **Place: London**  
09:00-12:30 Academic Seminar: Discussion on aspects of lifelong learning  
13:30-14:30 Background Report Authors: Final discussion  
15:00-16:00 Steering group: Proposal for the Country Note

# Norway Visit

## 15 - 24 March



## Norway

### Co-ordination

Marit Vigen  
Department of Adult Education  
Ministry of Education, Research  
And Church Affairs (KUF)

### Background Report

Fride Tangen Lysklaett

### Steering

Several Directors and Advisors  
from KUF  
One Senior Advisor from  
the Ministry of Labour and  
Government Administration



## Expert team

### Rapporteur

Joan Wills  
The United States

### External experts

Mia Douterlungne  
Belgium

Jean-Louis Kirsch  
France

### OECD experts

Anne Sonnet  
Administrator

Patrick Werquin  
Principal Administrator

### Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup>

Place: Oslo

- 09:00-11:00 Steering Group: Discussion on Background Report  
11:15-13:00 Dept of Adult Education: Adult learning in Norway  
14:00-15:00 LO (Confederation of Trade Unions) and NHO  
(Confederation of Business and Industry)  
15:15-16:00 Norwegian Project of a network university for  
LLL (Lifelong Learning)  
16:15-18:00 KS (Association of Local and Regional Authorities)

### Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup>

Place: Oslo

- 09:00-10:45 Directorate of Labour: Labour Market Training  
11:00-12:00 NAAE (Norwegian Association for Adult Education)  
12:00-13:00 Folk High School Council and Folk High Schools'  
representatives  
14:00-18:00 SRV (State Adult Education Centre); NFU  
(Norwegian State Institution for Distance  
Education); Merger of SRV, NFU and NVI  
(Norwegian Institute of Adult Education)

### Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>

Place: Sarpsborg

- 10:30-11:45 Day High School: meeting with teachers, students  
and AOF (Workers Educational Association)  
12:00-13:00 On-the-Job Training at Borregaard Ind. Ltd.  
14:00-16:00 AOF: "Reading and Spelling" shop in the town centre

### Monday March 20<sup>th</sup>

Place: Lillehammer

- 09:00-10:45 Adult Education Centre: Primary and lower  
secondary education for adults and training for  
immigrants  
11:00-13:00 National Education Office: Upper second. education  
14:00-18:00 Lillehammer College, Centre for Continuing Education  
Tuesday March 21<sup>th</sup> Place: Trondheim  
09:00-11:00 NTNU (University of Science and Technology)  
11:00-13:00 Sør-Trøndelag College: Network University  
14:00-18:00 Co-operation between educational institutions and  
industry: Ytre Namdal Upper Secondary School and  
the firm Telenor Mobil; Demonstration of models of  
internet-based training

### Wednesday March 22<sup>th</sup>

Place: Mosjøen

- 09:00-12:00 MRK (Mosjøen Resource and Competence Center):  
Representatives from Nordland County Education  
and Labour market Authorities  
13:00-15:30 On-the-Job training at Elkem Aluminium

### Thursday March 23<sup>th</sup>

Place: Oslo

- 09:00-10:00 NADE (Association for Distance Education)  
10:15-11:00 Ministry of Trade and Industry and SND (Industrial  
and Regional Development Fund)  
11:30-13:00 BI (School of Management for Executives)  
14:00-18:00 Research institutes and researchers: NVI; FAFO  
(Institute for Applied Social Science); ECON  
(Centre for Economic Analyses); KUV (Research  
Programme Competence, Education and Value  
Creation); Frisch Centre; Møre Research; NIFU  
(Norwegian Institute for Studies in Research and  
Higher Education)

### Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>

Place: Oslo

- 09:30-09:45 Meeting with the Minister of Education, Mr. Trond  
Giske  
10:00-11:00 Statistics Norway: Statistics for the Comparative  
Report  
11:15-12:30 Steering group: Proposal for the Country Note

# Country Comments

## United Kingdom

The UK organisers agreed with the OECD from the outset to confine the Thematic Review to England. This was mainly to give the Review a clear, specific focus. Although there are differences in the systems and arrangements for adult learning, the fundamental vision is the same in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England - a learning society, in which all adults have the opportunity to participate in learning throughout life no matter what their circumstances.

During their visit to England, the Review Team participated in a broad mix of visits: from policy makers to training providers; from academics to practitioners. They met trade unions, employers, further education college principals, university lecturers, government officials and representatives from some of the major 'learning' bodies. They also discussed major new initiatives such as the University for Industry and Individual Learning Accounts. In all, they met over 20 organisations in the 7 days of their visit.

The review team went to see some of the most deprived areas of England and saw initiatives to integrate people from these communities into the learning society.

From our point of view, the OECD visit was a useful opportunity to discuss our experience of lifelong learning with a range of experts from other countries. We very much look forward to seeing the report of the review in due course and learning from the experience and good practice identified in the other countries which are taking part in the exercise.

## Norway

In addition to numerous meetings in Oslo, the programme included trips to Sarpsborg in the South, Lillehammer and Trondheim in the midlands, and Mosjøen in the North, close to the Polar Circle. Thus the review team had the opportunity to experience Norway's variety.

The aim of the programme was to give the expert team a broad picture of adult education and training in Norway and an insight into the involvement of the different actors and levels of implementation in the Competence Reform - the current reform of adult education.

There were more than 100 participants including : Education and labour market authorities, social partners, providers of education at different levels, organisations and enterprises. The Norwegian participants took great interest in meeting the expert team, presenting their work and discussing the topics relating to adult learning. At the end of the visit the expert team also met the new Minister of Education, Mr. Trond Giske, who had taken up office that same week.