

## A welcome invitation

If you are involved in international activities in your work, we warmly invite you to join the IDOLearn community. You may, for example, arrange student or staff mobilities or be involved in European Commission projects. Whatever your experience so far, we hope that you will benefit from our IDOLearn project by gaining the professional recognition you deserve and meeting other like-minded International Development Officers (IDOs) – a great source of ideas and support!

### What is it all about?

Our project seeks to find routes to recognise the international activity work which many of us have gained through experience in an informal way and to provide a framework for continuing development. We are also building a training course for those who are new to the International Development profession or those who want to deepen their knowledge in the field of international work.

### Meet the IDOLearn team

We are all experienced in a range of international activities and have a personal motivation to improve recognition and training for international efforts.

*Nina, Marja-Liisa, Olga, Aapo, Giovanni, Sophie, Heidi Maria, Kirsti, Rosaleen, Marny, Jukka, Simona, Marie-Christine and Liisa (project founder) outside Bath Abbey, UK*



# What are your needs?

If you took part in our research to find out the education, knowledge, skills and training required to be effective in international activities – thank you. We received questionnaire feedback from 137 international practitioners involved in vocational education and training from across Europe which was followed by more in-depth interviews. The key findings are as follows:

- IDOs are generally very well educated with 86% having a University degree, 46% a foreign language qualification and 33% another formal qualification such as competence related. However 90% have received no formal training for their role.
- The top three competences were ranked as communication (verbal and written), interpersonal (teamwork and motivating others) and project management.
- Use of foreign languages, cultural awareness and communication were seen as the most important areas in which training is needed.
- 66% of respondents felt that competences should be validated by work based assessment, followed by continuing professional development, portfolios and evidence of prior learning. Only 11% felt that exams were appropriate.

## What next?

Based on the research findings, we developed a skills set framework as a basis for assessment and validation of competences and a blended training course.

The course will cover:

- Analytical skills: How to deepen your knowledge and understanding in relation to your organisational sector within international settings
- Design and content skills: How to prepare a project, set milestones and develop content
- Implementation skills: How to establish successful project management
- Communication skills: How to evaluate your project, manage valorisation activities and ensure that there is a lasting impact

The blended learning course will be piloted in Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Romania and the UK over an 8 week period between March and June 2010. Sessions and self study will be organised so that it will be possible to participate in the pilot whilst working.

## How can you get involved?

- By contacting one of the partners shown on the next page to find out more about or take part in our pilot programme
- By visiting our website [www.idolearn.net](http://www.idolearn.net) and joining our online discussion forum under networking

**For more information please contact any of the partners  
or visit our website [www.idolearn.net](http://www.idolearn.net)  
We look forward to hearing from you!**

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

# Project partners



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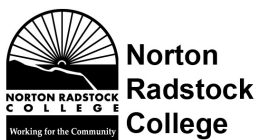
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