



Welcome to the third MASS Newsletter! We hope this issue of the newsletter will make you even more curious in getting to know what is going on in the project. <http://www.mass-project.org>

Third meeting in Bollnäs, Sweden!

MASS (MEASURING AND ASSESSING SOFT SKILLS) IS A LEONARDO DA VINCI TRANSFER OF INNOVATION MULTILATERAL PROJECT.

There are six partners from five member states, working together to transfer a methodology developed at Angus College in Scotland, to different countries with different target groups.

The third transnational meeting in MASS was held in Bollnäs, Sweden at the end of September 2010. 15 guests and the Swedish hosts took part at this meeting.



WALKABOUT IN BOLLNÄS

Among other items on the meeting agenda:

- An example of how the first learning bytes have been translated and tested in Sweden,
- Discussions about measurement, methodology and project research.
- Report on how Sweden has started the work with a National Framework for Qualification.

Partners celebrate the end of first year of project

THE MASS PROJECT CELEBRATED IT'S FIRST BIRTHDAY ON 1 OCTOBER 2010. AT THE END OF ITS FIRST YEAR THE PROJECT HAS SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED:

A fully functioning website packed with useful information about the project, samples of learning and teaching materials, research papers and the latest news about project activity. Over 1300 visitors have registered at the site from around the world.

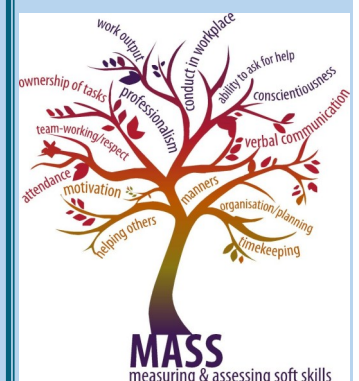
- The first two Swedish trainers and 15 Swedish students starting working on measuring and assessing soft skills.

- The translation of MASS materials into Swedish, Greek, Romanian and Dutch.
- Wide recognition in partner countries through local and national press and European networks.
- High levels of interest from teachers and trainers who want to help young people improve their soft skills.

That's a great achievement from a one year old!

HEADLINES

- ◆ *Third meeting*
- ◆ *Partners celebrate the end of first year of project*
- ◆ *What is EQF*
- ◆ *How does the work with a Swedish National Framework proceed?*
- ◆ *EQF/NQF process*
- ◆ *Pioneers in Bollnäs*





What is EQF (European Qualification Framework)?

STEFAN SKIMUTIS MADE A GENERAL PRESENTATION OF EQF.

European Qualification Framework (EQF) is a common European reference framework which links the qualifications systems of different countries

to function as a translation device to make qualifications from different countries and systems in Europe easier to understand. It is a tool for describing learning outcomes, one of three categories of knowledge, skills and competence. The Frame-

work has two main objectives: to promote citizens' mobility between countries and to facilitate their life-long learning. EQF are eight reference levels, spanning the full range of skills, from basic level (level 1) up to advanced (level 8).

How does the work with a Swedish National Framework proceed?



The proposal for a Swedish NQF provided to government October 4, 2010 is suggested to be as close to Europe as possible and provide the same basic structure. This means that the Framework has eight levels and categories which fit into the qualifications, knowledge, skills and competence. The Framework is open so non-formal and informal learning can be included.

Also non-academic programs can reach the higher levels: 6, 7 and 8. The next step in the work process is to link the public educational system to the framework. In the next stage it is suggested that a quality assurance system will be developed so that workbased learning can be included in the framework.

Where are the "MASS- countries" in the EQF/NQF process?

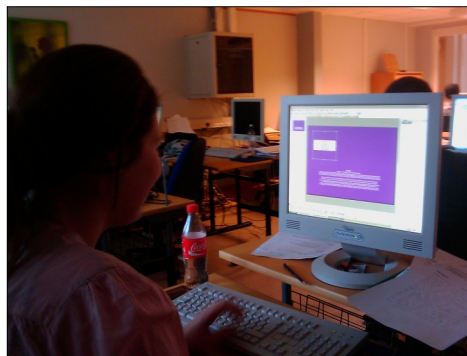
| Country | EQF-report ready | NQF |
|---------|------------------|--|
| NL | Yes - 2010 | Work started. Have not decided on number of levels |
| UK | Yes - 2010 | Ready. Number of levels 9/12 (in Scotland) |
| GR | No - 2011 | Not ready. Probably 8 levels. |
| SWE | NO - 2011 | Not ready. Probably 8 levels. |
| RO | Not decided | Not ready. Probably 8 levels. |

Pioneers in Bollnäs

Labour market coaches in Bollnäs have already started to translate and try out the first learning bytes with groups of unemployed young persons. For the moment quite many persons get jobs which means that the coaches have worked more individually, than expected, with the participants.

The young persons have worked with their personal images, trying to create a personal brand of themselves, also graphically. The participants have worked in smaller groups interviewing each other about their soft skills. The group put together personal profiles which they used as the basis for their personal brands, personal PR.

The final result is used when searching jobs. The benefits of graphically enhance a resume or cover letter has been very effective.



SOFIA IS WORKING WITH HER PERSONAL BRANDING.

"USING THE VALUES OF THEIR SOFT SKILLS TO MARKET THEMSELVES, CREATING A PERSONAL PR WAS VERY POPULAR."

The next partner-meeting will take place in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands 24-26 January 2011