



Facilitating Opportunities using Role Models to Underpin Learning  
for Adults who are socially excluded

Project Number: 527914-LLP-1-2012-UK-GRUNDTVIG-GMP

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## THE PROJECT

The project seeks to **engage adult learners from our most socially and economically deprived communities** and aid their progression to “go one step up” with their education, using mentors.

The framework for the project has two clear strategic outcomes:

1. **to form a more socially inclusive society** during difficult economic conditions by working with adults from our most deprived areas.
2. **to assist our learners** to progress to the qualifications they and society need by providing robust guidance frameworks.

### EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the FORMULA newsletter!

The FORMULA partnership is very excited to be sharing news of this project with you as we have been working hard to develop our ideas of a volunteer adult mentoring scheme assisting disadvantaged learners into education, employment or training options.

We know that there are too many adults across Europe who lack the skills they need to get on in work and life. We know too little about what motivates people to become learners to develop these skills and overcome the barriers to participation but we hope that demonstrating role models from their own communities as mentors will help in a small way to break this mould.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter information and do not hesitate to contact us either through our website, directly by email or through our Facebook page.

Best wishes,  
Helen Cormack ([SWAPWest](#))

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## ACTIVITIES



There are four main outcomes of the project

- 1) To identify and establish an adult peer mentoring network for learners and communities of learners from areas of multiple deprivation.
- 2) To produce materials and resources to support the mentors involved.
- 3) To produce materials and resources for adult learning organisations to support volunteer mentors working with adult learners.
- 4) To develop a European peer mentoring network through the partnership work of the mobilities to support partner/country networks.



## THE PARTNERS



Scottish Wider  
Access Programme

### Lead and project partner 1: SWAPWest

SWAPWest, the project coordinator is a consortium of Further and Higher Education establishments, also working with Community Education partners. SWAPWest has been successful in putting the needs of the adult learner at the forefront through the development of a wide range of initiatives aimed at helping disadvantaged groups of learners.

Andrew QUINN and Helen CORMACK: [swapwestformula@gmail.com](mailto:swapwestformula@gmail.com)

For further information visit: <http://www.scottishwideraccess.org>



### Project partner 2: FORMARE STUDIA

Formare Studia is actively involved in the community's life by engaging adults and youngsters in diverse activities. The NGO organizes formal and non-formal learning activities and conferences on educational themes, offering adults the opportunity to study, research, to development themselves through learning, socialize and share experiences.

Doina PARTENENIE, Angela SAVA and Teodora RUGINOSU: [formarestudia@gmail.com](mailto:formarestudia@gmail.com)

For further information visit: [www.formarestudia.ro](http://www.formarestudia.ro)



### Project partner 3: POE EDUCO, spol. s r.o.

POE EDUCO, Ltd., provides a range of education services to adults including professional training and re-qualification for unemployed adults. The company has wide experience in co-operating with Labour Offices from our region and other organisations at a local and regional level. As part of our widening participation strategy we have established projects, working in partnership with other agencies.

Pavla ČMUCHOVÁ [pavla.cmuchova@poe-educo.cz](mailto:pavla.cmuchova@poe-educo.cz)

For further information visit: [www.poe-educo.cz](http://www.poe-educo.cz)



### **Project partner 4: University of Malmö**

Malmö University was founded in 1998 and currently has approximately 20,000 students. The city's population of 280,000 is represented by a culturally diverse mix of 171 nationalities and 165 languages. This diversity and multicultural environment is reflected also in school and its student body.

The Nightingale Mentoring Scheme began in 1997 in Malmö and cooperated with a number of schools which had large numbers of pupils from very diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Carina SILD LÖNROTH: [carina.sild-lonroth@mah.se](mailto:carina.sild-lonroth@mah.se)

For further information visit: <http://www.mah.se/nightingale>



### **Project partner 5: Foundation for Social Development (FDS)**

The Foundation for the Social Development (FDS) is a non-profit organization established in December 2004. Its main objective is to promote the development of the population living and working in rural areas, providing them with the suitable tools and knowledge to improve their way of life.

Sara FERNÁNDEZ and Pilar TORNOS: [fdseuropa@gmail.com](mailto:fdseuropa@gmail.com)

For further information visit: [www.fundaciondesarrollosocial.org](http://www.fundaciondesarrollosocial.org)

## **PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT**

The Project's first task was a survey and analysis of whether mentoring would support adult returners to learning. We started in February 2013 with this questionnaire, which targeted adults, within and outside our institutions, for their views on support and mentoring. The questionnaires were first created and then the agreed questionnaires were distributed to a range of adults. After their completion data were collected and subsequently analysed.



We aimed for 500 responses (100 per partner country) with the questionnaire going out in each partner's native language. We questioned potential volunteer mentors, other adults in our organisations and former adult students who have continued in further education to identify the ways in which we best supported them when they returned to education. The aim of this research was to determine what they view as important support and whether they would themselves like to participate in adult education as volunteer mentors.

Final number of questionnaires exceeded the expected number by 27.4 %, reality: 637 questionnaires and many of the participants in the questionnaire survey are interested in

supporting and mentoring. Their interest was greater than we expected because 25% of them noted an interest in mentoring.



## NEWS

### **FORMULA PROJECT HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN THE MARCH EDITION OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND'S CLD E-BULLETIN:**<http://edscot.org.uk/LQE-1B3EW-753LDR5E09/cr.aspx>

The march Edition of Education Scotland's CLD eBulletin presents the Formula project. The impact of this project will encourage us to look at different ways to facilitate guidance, support, training and volunteering using this adult centred approach.

### **SWAPWEST HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE LEARNING FOR A BETTER WORLD, ORGANISED IN CARDIFF (WALES) BY NIACE, THE UK NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR ADULT LEARNING.** April 26, 2013

[www.niace.org.uk/news/uk-contribution-to-eu-agenda-for-adult-learning](http://www.niace.org.uk/news/uk-contribution-to-eu-agenda-for-adult-learning)

*Learning for a Better World*, organised by NIACE, stressed the need for adult educators to make a better case for investment, improve analysis of learner participation and motivation, and develop robust strategies to inspire adults who have benefited least from their initial education to take up learning. The conference is part of the European Agenda for Adult Learning which was adopted by Council Resolution in November 2011.

### **FORMULA PRESENTATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "QUALITY IN FORMAL AND NON FORMAL EDUCATION "IN IASI (ROMANIA)**

On the 18 and 19 May 2013, the Association Formare Studia and Filocalia Foundation from Iasi (Romania), have organized an international conference "QUALITY IN FORMAL AND NON FORMAL EDUCATION", where the paper "European mentoring in the Grundtvig project "FORMULA" " (authors Partenie Doina Helene, Carina Sild Lönroth, Angela Sava Teodora) was presented.

### **FORMULA PROJECT HAS COLLABORATED WITH THE ARALE PROJECT FOR "AWARENESS RAISING FOR ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION**

[www.eaea.org/index.php?k=4821&projekti\\_id=3406](http://www.eaea.org/index.php?k=4821&projekti_id=3406)

The ARALE project's aim to collect awareness raising and advocacy activities for adult education in Europe directed at the general public, at specific target groups and at policy-makers. Its objective is to get better information and knowledge about awareness raising activities and better know-how on how to organise, structure and execute awareness raising activities from a civil society perspective.

## NEXT EVENTS



- ❖ The next partner meeting will be in Ostrava (Czech Republic) from 13 - 15 May 2014
- ❖ Recruitment of mentors will take place from September - November 2013
- ❖ Training of mentors will take place in each country from November 2013 – June 2014

For dates and time, please contact your local partner