



European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring_Newsletter 06/2008

Dear Colleagues,

we would like to inform you about the latest and the prospective events in the European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring.

1. EVENTS

The EU-funded project on a concept for Target Group Monitoring which could be applied to the group of migrants will end at the 30th of June. The results were presented at a conference at the **02nd of June** at the **University of Frankfurt** with around 100 participants. The major focus was set on the transfer of the concept. It is planned to implement this concept in the county of Offenbach (State of Hessen) in Germany. The implementation project will start 1st of August 2008. In the centre of the implementation will be the development of a web-based information platform which gives users an easy access to the data they need. After 12 months there should be sufficient experience that the implementation could happen in other Hessian regions (or somewhere else). Actors who are interested in the process of implementation are invited to join workshops and meetings. In this case please get in touch with Christa Larsen (c.larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de).

The results of the EU-Project were also discussed at an expert workshop which was held at the **24th of June** at the **Committee of the Regions in Brussels**. In the centre of interest were firstly statistical methods to identify persons with migration background and secondly the transfer of indicators identified in the project to differently structured European regions. Further information on the project results you can get via IWAK (or see below publications).

At the **3rd of October 2008**, there will be the **Annual Meeting of the European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in Dublin (Ireland)**. John McGrath from FÁS, Ireland's National Training and Employment Authority (<http://www.fas.ie/en/>) will host the meeting. All network members and associates are very much invited to join this event. The topic of this meeting will be '**Regional/Local Operating Systems for the Identification of Current and Prospective Qualification/Skill Demands**'. Below (under point 4) you will find a **call for presentations**. Please have a look. If you know about such systems outside the group of network members, please be so kind and forward this call. The deadline for (short) proposals is the 24th of July 2008. The programme will come out in late summer. If you have

questions or suggestions please send them directly to John McGrath (John.McGrath@fas.ie).

2. PUBLICATIONS

The **final report on the project 'Target Group Monitoring' will be published in German** with the Title 'Zielgruppenmonitoring für die Gruppe Migranten'. It will be probably available in August 2008. Please check the Website of IWAK for News on this. (www.iwak-frankfurt.de)

There is a **second publication on Target Group Monitoring in English**. It is an anthology on Target Group which has a broader scope. It includes the results of the EU-project and discusses in how far this concept could be transfer to other target groups. The anthology contains around 30 articles. Most of them were written by network members. It will be firstly available at the annual meeting of the network in Dublin.

The **working group 'Regional Forecasting' within the European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring** has prepared an **anthology on regional forecasting methods and methodologies**. The book will be published late summer. If you are interested, please check the IWAK website for relevant news. (www.iwak-frankfurt.de)

3. PERSONNEL CHANGES

Waldemar Mathejczyk who did most of the coordination tasks of the network in the last year and was also project coordinator of the Target Group Monitoring project will leave IWAK at the end of June. He will start new projects. We thank him very much for all the work he did and wish the very best for his future. **Jenny Kipper**, also from IWAK, will take over his coordination tasks. If you have questions concerning the network, please get in touch with Jenny. You can reach her via Mail: Kipper@em.uni-frankfurt.de or via phone 0049-(0)69-798-23962.

There is another personnel change at Translake where the administration of the network's website happens. **Markus Lohr** will focus on new tasks. His successor is **Silke Böttcher**. We thank Markus very much for his wonderful work and like to welcome Silke very much. If you have any questions concerning the websites (www.targetgroupmonitoring.net and www.regionallabourmarketmonitoring.net) please contact Silke (silke.boettcher@translake.org).

4. Call for Presentations of Regional/Local Operating Systems for the Identification of Current and/or Prospective Qualification/Skill Demands

Background

The European labor market is undergoing a process of rapid structural change. There has been a significant increase in output and employment in high value-added sectors such as bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, software development, financial services and telecommunications and a concomitant decline of production in labor intensive low value-added manufacturing activities.

This process of change is often referred to as the 'transition to the knowledge economy' because typically the products and services provided by these sectors entail a much greater level of intellectual input than the activities associated with the more traditional business sectors.

The quality of human capital is critical to the development of the knowledge economy. In general, the knowledge economy requires a higher level of skills and qualifications and a workforce, which is competent in a range of technical and generic skills-sets, some of which may transcend the traditional skill boundaries.

It is important, therefore, that the Member States of the European Union develop models which are capable of identifying, in both quantitative and qualitative forms, the type of skill-sets and qualifications which are required by the developing knowledge economy in Europe.

The European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring are using the occasion of their third annual meeting (Dublin 3rd October 2008) to focus on this important topic. The emphasis will be on discussing and analyzing models for identifying current and future qualifications/skills needs at the regional and local level.

Main Objective for the Annual Meeting

One of the main goals for the annual meeting is to introduce and discuss regionally customized monitoring approaches by the way of Best Practices models (Best Practice means that the approaches should be well proved and tested in a specific region and being successfully implemented for (continuous) use). Therefore, it is planned to present examples of regional/local approaches for the successful identification of current and prospective qualification/skill demands. This could include formal and non-formal qualifications as well as varying time periods for the purposes of forecasting. The models may include both quantitative and qualitative methodologies and data.

Furthermore, it is planned to compare the successful operating systems from the various European regions with respect to their similarities and differences in order to draw conclusions about how such systems can be further developed and deployed within the framework of the European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring. For the 2008/2009 annual planning of network activities, these conclusions will provide significant guidance.

Call

All network members, associates or other relevant parties are invited to participate in the following call. We are looking for presentations of regional/local successfully operating systems for the identification of current and prospective qualification and skill demands. The presentations should address the following questions:

- How is the region defined? What are the reasons for this?
- How is the identification of the current and prospective qualification and skill demands carried out? Who are the actors involved? Which methods are used for data collection and analysis? Which qualifications and skills are the focus of the analysis and why were they selected? What are the time periods for the prognosis?
- Who initiated the project? Why was it initiated? What is the institutional/organisational framework for the operation of the system? Why is the operation successful? What are supporting factors for the operation and where are the barriers?

- What groups of regional actors are using the information? How is the information disseminated?
- What practical actions are implemented as a result of the analysis to address the regional qualification and skill demands?
- What are the perspectives of the project in the region?

Please send a short proposal describing your local/ regional operating system to John Mc Grath, the organiser of the annual meeting 2008 in Dublin, **until the 21st of July 2008**. If you have further questions, please get in touch with John Mc Grath (John.Mcgrath@fas.ie) or with Christa Larsen at IWAK (C.Larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de).

Now we wish you a wonderful summertime and we are looking forward to meet you in Dublin.
With kind regards,

Alfons Schmid
Christa Larsen
Jenny Kipper

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If you have any comments on this newsletter or if you do not want to receive the newsletter any more, please let us know. Contact: Jenny Kipper: Kipper@em.uni-frankfurt.de Tel. 0049-(0)69-798-23962.