

## **Call for Presentations of Regional/Local Successfully Operating Systems for the Identification of Current and 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>1</sup>. 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:

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<sup>1</sup> Best Practice means that the approaches should be well proved and tested in a specific region and being successfully implemented for (continuous) use.

- 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 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2008**. If you have further questions, please get in touch with John Mc Grath ([John.Mcgrath@fas.ie](mailto:John.Mcgrath@fas.ie)) or with Christa Larsen at IWAK ([C.Larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:C.Larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de)).