



Welcome to the second MASS Newsletter! I hope this letter will make you more curious so that you go on to our web-site: <http://www.mass-project.org>

## Update on MASS

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.

Angus College, as project leaders, have uploaded lesson plans, student and tutor packs and the soft skills assessment tool to the secure area of the MASS website. Go to <http://www.mass-project.org/> and then select Learning Materials Tab. The materials are all available in editable format so that users can make changes to meet the needs of different student groups.

If you do not have access to the secure area of the site, but would like to find out more about our methodology or see examples of learning materials, please contact Mina Welsh, by email at [mina.welsh@angus.ac.uk](mailto:mina.welsh@angus.ac.uk).

## Sad News



Joep Straathof suddenly passed away after a cardiac arrest at the age of 54. The supervisory board, the management team, team leaders and the employees of Bureau Zuidema are shocked and sad about his unexpected death. Without Joep Straathof we will have to miss a passionate, dedicated and inspiring leader and colleague. Since 1999 he not only played an important role in the development of our Zuidema also in our personal growth and development.. The MASS-project will not be the same without him...

## What the Papers Say

The MASS project has made national news in the UK. The Times Educational Supplement, the UK's leading publication for educational professionals, published an article entitled *Angus College Gets Tough with its Innovative Soft Skills Course*. Follow the link to find out more.

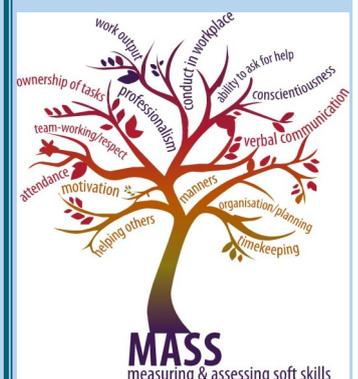
<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6035714>

## The MASS-partners

Angus College, Arbroath, Scotland, lead partner  
 Second Chance School of Neapolis, Thessaloniki, Greece  
 Adult Learning and Employment, Bollnäs, Sweden  
 The Teacher Training Centre, Bucharest, Romania  
 ROC Aventus, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
 Bureau Zuidema, Utrecht, The Netherlands

## HEADLINES

- ◆ Update on MASS
- ◆ Sad News
- ◆ What the Papers Say
- ◆ Spotlight on Angus College
- ◆ MASS and EQF





## *Spotlight on Angus College*

Based in Arbroath on the East coast of Scotland, with four satellite learning centres in surrounding towns, Angus College has been meeting the further education and training needs of the local community for over fifty years by providing quality, vocational and leisure courses that can be studied on a full or part-time basis. One area often commented on by our students is that we listen to what they have to say, and we do our best to try and improve things on an ongoing basis. It is our students who form the heart of our organisation.

Angus College is one of the most highly respected further education colleges in Scotland. We are active in Leonardo, Grundtvig, Comenius and Transversal projects which provide opportunities for professional development, personal growth and training for staff and students. Visit our web page at [www.angus.ac.uk](http://www.angus.ac.uk) to find out more.



Isla Building, Arbroath



CALC Building, Arbroath

## *MASS and EQF*

The EQF (European Qualifications Framework) acts as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers' and learners' mobility between countries and facilitating their life-long learning.

The EQF aims to relate different countries' national qualifications systems to a common European reference framework. Individuals and employers will be able to use the EQF to better understand and compare the qualifications levels of different countries and different education and training systems.

The MASS project is contributing to the aims of the European Lifelong Learning Programme by promoting transparency, recognition and mapping of soft skills qualifications against EQF. It will do this by first of all, mapping the new qualifications to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and then publicising the equivalent level on EQF. The project raises awareness of what EQF is amongst partner organisations and employers.

By 2010 the European Union expects all member states to reference their own national qualifications to the EQF and by 2012, one year after the end of the MASS project, all countries will be expected to indicate the EQF level of all new qualifications. As the products of the MASS project are disseminated throughout Europe, their EQF level will be widely understood.

For further information on MASS and EQF, see the presentation from Bureau Zuidema, Netherlands on the MASS project website.

**"IF EVERYONE IS MOVING  
FORWARD TOGETHER,  
THEN SUCCESS TAKES  
CARE OF ITSELF"  
HENRY FORD**



**European  
Qualifications  
Framework**

The next partner-meeting will take place in  
**SWEDEN**  
27th to 29th SEPTEMBER 2010