



Welcome to the first 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>

## *Kick-Off for MASS!*



**PARTNERS LINED UP FOR THE TRADITIONAL GROUP PICTURE**

AFTER A LOT OF PREPARATIONS THE TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MASS HAS STARTED!

MASS is a Leonardo Transfer of Innovation project in which partners

from five countries will take part. Import of know how from Angus College in Scotland which has been successful in supporting disadvantaged young persons to enter the labour mar-

ket. But there will not be a one way learning process in the project. All the countries will contribute with their experience in this field. One example is how to involve employers in the process.

The initial meeting took place in Thessaloniki in Greece, in late November 2009. More than 20 participants from Greece, the Netherlands, Romania, Scotland and Sweden were gathered to discuss the details for the two-year long project.

## *What is the purpose of MASS?*

MASS aims to better understand and address the needs of young persons who disengage from training, education or employment. It will achieve this by transferring innovative methodologies in measuring and assessing soft skills.

### **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

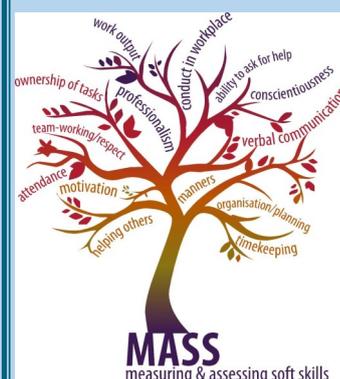
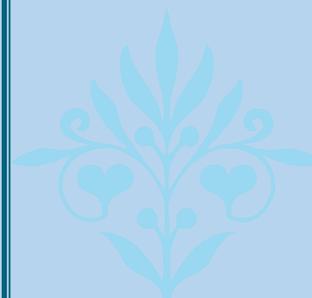
These are personal and social skills which are needed to be successful in education and employment. Many people could improve these skills. In this project we will focus on young learners. Training methods and materials will be a tested in

Greece, Romania, Scotland, Sweden and the Netherlands and details published on our web-site:

[www.mass-project.org](http://www.mass-project.org)

## HEADLINES

- ◆ Kick Off for MASS
- ◆ Purpose of MASS
- ◆ Spotlight of a partner
- ◆ First meeting
- ◆ Next meeting





## *Spotlight on Partner*

The Swedish partner Lärande & Arbete (Adult Learning and Employment) is a public body, acting on a local level. In the municipality of Bollnäs it gives opportunities for second chance learners from basic up to higher levels of education.

“We provide distance learning, Swedish for immigrants and labour market and integration programmes for our target groups and we are also involved in national and European projects”, says Peter Wäglund, Project coordinator and participant in MASS.

“Counselling, coaching and work-place training are keystones in our programmes and projects for young persons”, says Ewa Marianne Jonsson, manager of the department for Employment and Integration. “We will take part in the MASS-project in order to gain new knowledge and inspiration in the work we are already doing, but we will also share our experience in the field of contacts with employers.

Lärande & Arbete has about 1 000 learners per year and a staff of nearly 70 persons. The partner in Bollnäs will

lead the workpackages: Working with employers and Dissemination.

Bollnäs is a rather small Swedish municipality, beautifully situated almost in the middle of Sweden, with about 26 000 inhabitants. The town is close to mountains, forests and the mighty Ljusnan river.



THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER LJUSNAN

## *Contents of the first meeting*

An important part of the first meeting was to get to know each other better. Some of the participants (Greece, Scotland and Sweden) had met before and also been taking part in a preparatory meeting. The Dutch and Romanians, however, were introduced during this meeting.

Some of the topics on the agenda were:

- Introduction of partner organisations
- An overview of the project
- Evaluation
- Administrative routines
- Project communication
- Action plan for the next steps in the project
- Planning of the transnational meetings

“COUNSELLING, COACHING AND WORK-PLACE TRAINING ARE KEYSTONES IN OUR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FOR YOUNG PERSONS”

## *What will happen until the next transnational meeting?*

- Angus College will develop and present “The Soft Skills Pack” to the other partners, who will translate and decide how to use them in their respective institutions.
- Research and an introduction of what is meant with “soft skills” will be carried out from Angus.
- A website for the project will be launched. The address of this is: [www.mass-project.org](http://www.mass-project.org)
- Plans for a dissemination strategy will be set up and distributed to the other partners.
- All partners will contribute to adding information to the new Leonardo Project Database, called ADAM: [www.adam-europe.eu](http://www.adam-europe.eu)
- The plans for how employers could be involved in the project will be set up.
- Administration, economical matters and evaluation strategies are also focused at this stage.

The next partner-meeting will take place in Arbroath, Scotland

May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010.