



PALS

**Practical Action Learning Sets for
Community Participation and Development**

WWW.OAKE-EUROPE.CO.UK/PALS



PALS DEVELOPS ITS THEME

To achieve wider public participation it is essential that vocational professionals have access to proven methodologies and good practice techniques in community engagement.

The rationale underpinning the PALS project is to transfer innovative and proven products operational in the UK to the emerging market place in Turkey, Latvia and Poland.

The focus is to transfer and customise toolkits for developing community consultation and engagement skills.

This is particularly relevant as community consultation becomes more widely used through the integration of the processes into

formal planning procedures across the EU.

For example, in the UK from September 2005 the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 dictated that it is a compulsory part of the planning process that communities are consulted in any proposed activity.

To achieve wider public participation it is essential that vocational professionals have access to proven methodologies and good practice techniques in community engagement. This

requires additional new skills and competencies in professionals such as planners, developers' architects regeneration practitioners and community development specialists than previously.

This is particularly acute in direct engagement with communities, which for many is new and not currently a significant part of vocational training.

PRACTICAL ACTION LEARNING SETS

A well-tried method of accelerating learning which enables people to handle difficult situations more effectively.

Action learning involves working on real problems, focusing on learning and actually implementing solutions. It is a form of learning by doing.

It provides a well-tried method of accelerating learning which enables people to handle difficult situations more

effectively.

Action learning argues that learning requires current knowledge and questioning insight. It uses small groups to provide challenge and support since individuals learn best with others as they tackle individual problems and implement solutions.

The process integrates: research (into what is obscure); learning (about what is unknown); and action (to resolve a problem) into a single activity and develops an attitude of questioning and reflection to help individuals and organisations change themselves in a rapidly changing world.

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PARTNER FOCUS

LATVIA



Established in March, 2007, Association **POSITIVE MIND** is a non profit organisation created by highly experienced members who have been working in the public domain for many years.

Based In Tukums, in the Western part of Latvia, Positive Mind was developed with aim of promoting mutual understanding and tolerance of individuals and society groups with different cultural, religious, national, racial, social and economic backgrounds and health conditions.

POLAND



Danmar Computers is a consultancy and training firm specializing in supplying training in the range of Information Technology and implementation of computer systems in order to assure equal access to education by all.

The company mainly deals with: training, developing programs and training materials, counselling, implementation of computer systems, designing web pages, e-learning, e-business and conducting international authorized examinations in the range of computer applications.



Danmar Computers has many years experience in carrying out European Union educational programs, within the framework of which it conducts research, experimental and educational activities.

Danmar Computers actions are based on the system of co-operation with domestic and foreign training and counselling institutions, Universities, schools, local governments, non government institutions as well as private sector companies.

Danmar Computers' mission is to promote life-long education and assuring equal opportunities of access to education for everyone with the use of modern technology.

TURKEY

OPAL YAYINCILIK ORGANİZASYON VE TİCARET LİMİTED ŞİRKETİ (Happy Kids), was founded 1992. It is an educational organization company.

Happy Kids works for "happy individual, happy family, happy society..." for kids, young people, adults, parents and institutions, teachers, trainers, women, disadvantaged groups.

OPAL LTD works nationwide and gives monthly seminars for teachers and parents at weekends.

So far 16.000 attenders have participated in the facilities of OPAL LTD. In the period 2007-2008 OPAL LTD organised seminars for 9000 people in Turkey.

E-publishing is one of major concepts of OPAL LTD.

UK—S&B

S& B Projects Services has been operating as a company for over six years. It brings together experienced and senior practitioners in community development, project management and training committed to participatory ways of working.

Experience includes: securing and managing EU funded programmes (mainly ESF co financing) for both private and voluntary organizations; undertaking research commissions for local planning strategies; consultation for voluntary organizations on regional infrastructure development programmes; undertaking impact assessment and evaluations of programmes; specialised life long learning and training



in community consultation and facilitation with a range of organisations and personnel both paid and voluntary.

Longer term experience includes management of major public and voluntary organizations, national and international, and participation in a range of transnational programmes including Equal and Leonardo.

UK—OAKE EUROPE

OAKE Europe facilitates all aspects of project development, management,

monitoring as well as data collection, analysis and interpretation.

The company has considerable experience and skills in supporting and developing transnational projects / initiatives.

OAKE Europe is a non-profit enterprise working in the area of research and development, providing technical assistance, management and training and development for organisations within the European Union and in the developing world.

The focus of activities is work with people experi-

encing social exclusion; providing innovative actions and developments that offer opportunities for economic and social integration.

OAKE's main office is in Manchester, England with European developments from our Brussels office.

OAKE provides specific and practical support with all aspects of national and international project work in the areas of education and training, research and technological development, and training and development activities of the non-governmental sector.

CASCADE LEARNING

Cascade learning is a method of helping people master the learning they must acquire for their projects. It asks students to learn from and teach their classmates in a systematic order.

Cascade learning begins with the tutor teaching a few students how to use a particular application or piece of equipment.

Teachers may begin with student volunteers, students who already have significant technical ex-

pertise, or students who might especially benefit from the role of teacher/expert. After learning and practicing the material these students each teach a few others what they have learned. These students, in turn, tutor other people until all students have learned and practiced the technical skills.

This method of learning is especially useful if there are limited resources or students with varying levels of experience are using the application.

Cascade learning gives each student direct access to the learning materials and the opportunity to contribute to others' learning, providing good opportunities for student direction and collaboration.

Teachers can use cascade learning as a springboard for discussions about real world collaboration efforts or effective methods of teaching and sharing knowledge.

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WORKSHOP DETAILS

Latvia

31 March—4 April

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Turkey

12 May—16 May

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16 June—20 June

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