



# PALS

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

[WWW.OAKE-EUROPE.CO.UK/PALS](http://WWW.OAKE-EUROPE.CO.UK/PALS)



## PALS DEVELOPMENTS

As PALS enters its second year the Project Management Team has been considering ways of strengthening the project to deliver even better sets of outputs.

The original plan for PALS was to provide two, 3-day, workshops (spaced by about a year) in each partner country to pass on to 15 trainers information and skills relating to action learning techniques in community participation and development.

In the intervening period between each pair of workshops each trainee is charged with cascading the information to at least 10 others, thus expanding and transferring the innovative techniques to at least 450 new people across the three partners (Poland, Turkey, and Latvia).

The first round of workshops have been carried out and were extremely successful.

We are currently in the cascade period, in preparation for the second round of workshops towards the middle of 2009. The original plan called for partners to support their 15 trainees in the cascading process and for the UK partners to support the European partners.

Feedback from the first round of workshops and from the partners suggests that the original PALS plan should be modified slightly to strengthen the overall process.

The changes centre largely on the nature of the cascade process and the second workshops. The revised plan is to build the capacity of the partners who are in regular contact with trainers.

This will provide a far more sustainable Transfer of Innovation process.

Furthermore, each country has been

shown to be at different stages in both their trainees' experiences in this kind of work and the kind/level of support they need. At the same time partners have gained much by discussing things with each other, especially on how to approach the cascade support.

Thus it has become clear that there needs to be considerable support for the cascading process which is over and above the level of support envisaged. So the group has decided to hold an additional Cascade Support Event in January 2009 at which the original trainers and partners can meet to discuss support issues.

Furthermore, we intend to hold an additional Valorisation event in Turkey in September next year to develop further the outputs dissemination and exploitation of the PALS project.

*considering ways of strengthening the project to deliver even better sets of outputs*

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## CASCADE SUPPORT EVENT

The PALS Cascade Support Event will take place in January 2009 in London.

The event will be attended by all PALS partners who will meet to discuss their experiences of the cascading process, its successes and problems.

It will also be attended by OAKE and S&B staff, including the very successful original workshop trainers, who will be able to discuss with partners ways of overcoming any prob-

lems and enhancing the cascade process.

The event will also facilitate inter-partner discussions and will enable individual work plans to be built to reflect individual situations.

A trainer will be allocated to each member country to provide an on-going mentoring support.

In addition the second workshops envisaged in the original proposal

will still be held but their duration will be reduced.

These will take the form of feedback/review meetings with both partners and trainees to record lessons learnt and 'distance travelled', and evaluate the process from the perspectives of participants in each member state.

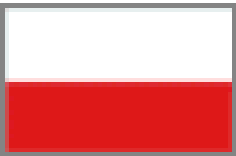
This will be a more effective outcome for the project and will feed into the final report as a development of the process and lessons learned.



## PALS WEBSITE

**All of the PALS material can be accessed easily from the web:**

**<http://www.oake-europe.co.uk/PALS>**



## PALS SUSTAINABILITY – a statement

PALS will create a strong, sustainable and influential training network that is based on principles of inclusion, openness and honesty allied to the European unification of a diverse range of skills and experience. This network will grow beyond the life of the community funding. There is a long-term commitment by all the partners to identify trends and skills requirements in this area and improve the anticipated benefit of vocational training initiatives, set EU frameworks, standards principles in community consultation and influence policy makers and regional and national planning organisations.

Partners will cascade the findings of the network to wider stakeholder partners. We intend to publicise the results of work undertaken by such transnational networks through the relevant channels and publications to promote greater innovation and transnational co-operation in vocational training. The underpinning principles of the work rest on the concept of stakeholder involvement, which is a highly transferable feature since it focuses on the process within an open environment. Participation and engagement in the process, together within a practical framework, engenders a sense of ownership, in turn increasing the level of sustainable commitment.

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## PALS EXPLOITATION AND DISSEMINATION

The PALS valorisation activities have two aims that align with the Commission's valorisation focus on increasing value, the exchange of good practice and the exploitation, experimentation and implementation of practical activities.

First to disseminate and promote practically based and innovative community consultation tools to improve the vocational training of its target group: regeneration, planning and community development professionals.

Second, through the transnational network, to raise collectively the profile of community based consultation tools and techniques across member states and inform mainstream activity and policy makers.

The PALS valorisation plan sets out the key activities that underpin the strategy, including:

- dissemination activities such as the promotion of the products developed through the PALS tool kit, the good prac-

tice guide and case study reports

- a major trans-national learning symposium
- media promotion activity in journals, magazines, periodicals and the website (promoting both products and the network itself), and dissemination by individual partners of the network and activities through their own national networks, events and conferences
- using the network to target materials and presentations to policy and decision makers, including the EU Commission and MEPs.

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## **PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS**

### **Issue 1 February 2008**

**PALS develops its theme  
Practical Action Learning Sets  
Partner Focus  
Cascade Learning  
Workshop Details**

### **Issue 2 July 2008**

**Workshop Successes  
The PALS process  
The PALS toolkit  
Meet the trainers  
PALS Partnership**

**All Newsletters can be downloaded from the PALS website:**

**<http://oake-europe.co.uk/PALS>**