

# STOP PRESS! PASCAL LAUNCHES NEW PROJECT AT ÖSTERSUND CONFERENCE 23.6.2010

## **PASCAL *Effective* Interventions in Youth Unemployment (PIYU)**

The PASCAL programme on *effective* interventions in youth employment is a developing programme offered to members of the PASCAL International Observatory. PASCAL is committed to using the best principles of social capital, place management, and life-long learning to inspire strategic partnerships with policy makers (both public and private) in our member regions to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Unemployment, and especially youth unemployment, is a major concern in many regions. Youth unemployment is always two to three times higher than adult unemployment and tends to continue to rise for a while following the end of a recession.

In the UK and USA around one in five young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are unemployed, in France and Italy about one in four and in Spain the proportion reaches 40 per cent. National policies have a large impact on rates of unemployment among young people: for example, despite facing similar economic pressures, Denmark, has a youth unemployment rate of just 3 per cent.

Under a European agreement, all member states must provide a 'fresh start' in the form of education, training or work experience to all young people who have been unemployed for six months. Worldwide, a huge range of schemes have been developed.

PASCAL's PIYU programme will improve the effectiveness of regional responses by creating a learning network amongst regions. Policy interventions aimed towards the young unemployed will be evaluated as to their effectiveness and PIYU will disseminate good practice and the lessons learned from other regions.

The programme will be led by Professor Andy Furlong, based at Glasgow University, who has consulted on youth employment issues for organisations such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the Scottish Government. He has carried out a comparative review of programmes for unemployed young people in Europe for the European Commission.

## The PASCAL International Observatory approach

Using a methodology pioneered by PASCAL in other successful intentional development projects, PIYU will facilitate and inform regions in their delivery of national programmes. PIYU will assist in ways that maximize the levels of employment integration and the long-term benefit to participants. The programme offers regions (a 'region' being an area in which PASCAL works with defined clients – whether city, urban or rural in character) the opportunity to systematically examine the effectiveness of their unemployment programmes. PIYU will offer a benchmarked analysis of programme effectiveness and of user satisfaction and will assist regions make choices amongst the alternative forms of provision that will fit the needs of their local circumstances.

### Basic considerations of value and effectiveness

- Do compulsory programmes work?
- What do participants and employers want from unemployment programmes?
- If 'one size fits all' doesn't work, what does?
- What is the appropriate context, in our situation, for employment training?
- How is education best delivered to these user groups?
- What special measures are needed to bring the most disadvantaged clients to a stage where they can make real gains from any programme?
- What about seasonally unemployed workers?
- How do we ensure that training 'sticks' and we don't just see the same faces back again a few months later?

These are just some of the questions which practitioners and policy makers need answers to. PIYU provides the evidence base for answering these.

### The goal of PIYU

Our goal is to create a "virtuous learning circle" that will allow participants to expand their knowledge base on a continuous basis and to disseminate it through meetings, workshops, professional exchanges, peer consulting opportunities, and formal publication outlets, by:

- Developing a physical and virtual social network enabling 'virtuous knowledge sharing'
- Assisting regional authorities and professionals to develop informed and creative responses to unemployment amongst young people, and to assist regional economic and community development;
- Coaching projects for creative and systemic development; programme leadership and delivery in this area for continuous improvement;
- Advising regional leaders and stakeholders on appropriate strategies to ensure the engagement of all stakeholders - enabling them to become more outwardly enterprising and empowering of communities.

### Getting Involved with PIYU

The PASCAL International Observatory is eager to work with any region that seeks to participate in this exciting new initiative. To become a full service member of PIYU requires a 'region' to become a project member of the PASCAL International Observatory (a region is the context – whether city, urban or rural, in which PASCAL clients work and carry out their duties). This gives full access to the PIYU programme together with the other member benefits which PASCAL provides. This project membership brings with it a small PASCAL team, all with relevant expertise in benchmarking and assessment protocol at senior levels in a range of agencies. By developing a monitored action strategy, and formative assessment schedule, effective development will be sponsored and guided in each regional context as part of a comprehensive development programme aimed at achieving the goals required by the region.

### In Short

PIYU aims to help regions develop and adapt educational and training programmes designed for the unemployed, and especially unemployed young people, in ways that maximize overall effectiveness and impact. It aims to help regions reduce unemployment, particularly among young people, develop human capital and address inequalities through imaginative implementation and delivery of innovative and creative programmes.

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### Further information and contact

If you are interested in discussing opportunities for participation in this programme please contact the Observatory at [pascaladmin@educ.gla.ac.uk](mailto:pascaladmin@educ.gla.ac.uk) or your nearest PASCAL Regional Office. Alternatively, consult our website at [www.pascalobservatory.org](http://www.pascalobservatory.org)

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