

VALUE Network – Employability Sub-group

Who we are and what we are doing

As one of the VALUE subgroups we are looking at the important theme of employability in relation to university lifelong learning opportunities for volunteer organisations. We have taken this theme to cover:

- Volunteers
- Employed managers of volunteers
- In some cases volunteers are helping provide employment opportunities to third parties e.g. refugees, offenders in prison, those who are illiterate.

The partners involved in this subgroup are:

- University of Liverpool (UoL), UK
- InHolland University, NL
- Babeş-Bolyai University, RO
- Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR), UK

Individual subgroup members' focus:

- NL – an overview of valuing LLL and volunteering within the context of employment, looking at the various stakeholders (e.g. trade unions, employers, volunteers, the state, universities). See notes on discussion above.
- RO – looking at needs/ expectations of volunteers (with particular reference to employment issues) for learning opportunities in universities. Will circulate some questions to other RO universities
- UK (IVR) – similar to RO - looking at UK and specifically a literature review.
- UK (UoL)– ULLL needs of employed managers of volunteers in UK

Questions for Discussion

- a. The different motivations for engaging in volunteering related to employability i.e. different motivations and needs at different stages of a person's career, their age or level of employment/ unemployment e.g. different needs of younger people (eg recent graduates) and mid-career volunteers. How can ULLL respond - e.g. range of flexible part time study options essential? What is on offer?**
- b. Do other stakeholders in the employability equation 'value' volunteering and ULLL eg employers, trade unions, the state etc? Issues about challenging the 'instrumental approach' by other stakeholders e.g. to qualifications for volunteers by the state.**
- c. How do companies engage their staff in volunteering? What are the implications for ULLL support of this?**