



## **Knowledge Exchange on Public Policy in Scotland: Promoting Best Practice in Equality and Human Rights in Scotland**

A knowledge exchange programme supported by the Scottish Funding Council

*Lifelong Learning and Equity in Scotland*

**Venue:** Mercure Point Hotel, Bread Street, Edinburgh

**Date:** Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30 – 4.00

The Scottish Government, in its Economic Strategy produced in 2007, stated a commitment to accelerating sustainable economic growth and identified a number of strategic priorities that are critical to economic growth, including learning, skills, well-being and equity. A new approach was signalled to lifelong learning, focusing on the production of 'a supply of education and skills which is responsive to, and aligned with, actions to boost demand'. This think tank will analyse how Scotland compares in the field of lifelong learning with other European countries. It will present findings from a recently conducted survey (part of the EU LLL2010 project) investigating why learners with different prior levels of attainment return to education. From the same research project, data will be presented on workers' experiences of workplace learning in high skilled enterprises and those involved in manufacturing and construction. Research on the experiences of non-traditional learners in an ancient Scottish university will also be presented, reflecting on the challenges encountered by programmes seeking to deliver greater equity. Finally policy makers will give their views on what has been achieved so far in terms of lifelong learning and equity, further actions which need to be taken and the challenges lying ahead.

The specific aims of this event are:

- To share knowledge on the topic of lifelong learning and equity in Scotland, involving a range of bodies including Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council, Equality Forward, local authorities, academics and third sector organisations
- To draw some international comparisons between Scotland, England and other European countries in relation to lifelong learning and equity
- To reflect on the knowledge exchange process and draw lessons for future events
- To produce a briefing with a state of the art assessment of the current picture and key issues affecting Scotland.



10.30-11.00 **Registration and coffee**

11.00-11.10 **Welcome**

Sheila, Riddell, CREID, University of Edinburgh

11.10-12.00 **Lifelong learning in Scotland, empirical research findings**

(Chair: Jim Crowther, University of Edinburgh)

*Experiences of Non-traditional students in an ancient Scottish University*

Professor Lyn Tett and Professor Viv Cree, University of Edinburgh

*What motivates adults to return to education? Comparing learners at different levels*

Dr Elisabet Weedon, University of Edinburgh

*Learning at work: Experiences in 'Knowledge Economy' and Traditional Scottish Firms*

Linda Ahlgren and Professor Sheila Riddell, University of Edinburgh

12.00-12.45 **Discussion:** What are the insights from the ground that the policy makers need to take into account?

12.45-1.30 **Lunch**

1.30-2.30 **Scottish policy, lifelong learning and equality**

(Chair: Sheila Riddell, University of Edinburgh)

*Promoting equality in Scotland's colleges and universities*

Linda McLeod and Suzanne Marshall, Equality Forward

*Lifelong Learning and Equity in Scottish Colleges and Universities: Levers for Change*

Jonathon Gray, Scottish Funding Council

*Learning and life chances: how colleges can help create a more equal Scotland*

Ros Micklem, Director, Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland

2.30-3.15 **Discussion:** What are the practical implications of current policy?

3.15-3.30 **Coffee**

3.30-4.00 **Reflection and implications for policy and practice**

Discussant: David Raffe, University of Edinburgh

**If you would like to reserve a place, please complete the Booking Form and e-mail to Helen Christie:**

[helen.christie@ed.ac.uk](mailto:helen.christie@ed.ac.uk)



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<b>First Name</b>			
<b>Surname</b>			
<b>Position</b>			
<b>Institution</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>Telephone</b>			
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Do you have any special dietary, access and/or other requirements?</b> (e.g. vegetarian, allergies, wheelchair access, disabled parking, sign language interpreter etc)		<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, please give details</b>			
<b>Data Protection Act</b> We would like to include your name, position, institution and email address on the attendance list distributed to all delegates at this event. If you do NOT agree to this, please indicate in the box.			

**Please return your completed form by early November 2008 to:**  
 Helen Christie, Project Administrator, Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity, University of Edinburgh. **Tel: 0131 651 6326**  
**Email [helen.christie@ed.ac.uk](mailto:helen.christie@ed.ac.uk)**

