



Newsletter Issue 2

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter, offering a brief overview of current activities of NWUA.

The North West Higher Level Partnership Event: NWUA is holding a conference on October 23rd in Manchester which aims to inform partners of the priorities for the new sectors of Biomedical, Food and Drink and Energy and Environmental Technologies, and to highlight the developments within the HLSP programme.

The North West Higher Level Partnership: The first two HLSP projects have reached completion with the MSc in Construction Management at the University of Salford and the Foundation Degree in Financial Services at Blackburn College having completed their development stages and recruited their first and second cohorts of students. Further projects will be nearing completion during the autumn and NWUA will be producing case studies to disseminate the outcomes of these projects.

Further information is available on the HLSP website: www.nwua.ac.uk/pathfinder

Enhancing Higher Level Sport Volunteering and Coaching Skills: NWUA has begun meeting with appropriate colleagues across member institutions to learn more about what volunteering opportunities they provide and as well as their aspirations for the requirements of a regional volunteering database.

Further information on the project is available on our website: <http://www.nwua.ac.uk/sports>

Objective 3 Sector Co-ordination Project: NWUA is continuing the evaluation work on the activity and impact of HE engagement in Objective 3 ESF activity across the North West programme area during the 2000 - 2006 period. NWUA is building up case study material on ESF projects and will be producing a publicity brochure with evidence of results and wider impacts wherever possible.

Other areas of activity include the reviewing of information on the 46 ESF research projects which have been funded under the NW Objective 3 2000-6 programme. Activity is also ongoing around developing an 'on-line' repository holding further information on the research reports; the summary details of which will be accessible through a search-engine database, with linkages back to the applicant institution. This database is currently being tested.

Food & Drink Sector Investment Panel: NWUA presented a SWOT analysis of the Food & Drink related HE sector at the Panel's first meeting in August, and distributed information regarding research capabilities to the group.

NWUA have been providing feedback to Food NW on their portfolio of bids for ERDF funds. The draft concept proposal for a project to provide business & technical support to Food & Drink SMEs in the North West was distributed to member HEIs via the Enterprise Advisory Group and the Food & Drink Academic Network. If the bid is successful, the model used will link into the NWDA Innovation Vouchers Scheme and signpost SMEs to sources of research

and technical support, including HEIs. Some funding will be available to support this interaction from Food NW. The proposal also includes resource for an R&D Forum and publication of HEI research capabilities mapping.

Business Support Simplification Programme (BSSP): The Deputy Director attended the **North West BSSP Transition Management Board (TMB)** on 26th August 2008 and provided a brief update on the NWUA exercise to consider a small number of **ERDF funded university projects** against the BSSP principles. Five case studies are now complete, and a meeting with NWDA to consider the emerging evidence, has been arranged for 12th September 2008. It is intended that following discussions with NWDA, NWUA will consult with member institutions.

Single Regional Strategy (RIS). The RIS will be a major area of activity over the next twelve months and NWUA have organised an HE consultation event, to be chaired by Professor John Brooks, for Friday 3rd October 2008 to facilitate universities' collective engagement with the RIS and input into the RIS evidence papers. Member institutions have been invited to nominate colleagues for attendance. Subject to the outcome of this event it is anticipated that the second event, involving wider regional partners, will be held during November 2008.

Enterprise Practitioner's Workshop: At the NWUA Enterprise Practitioners Workshop on 22nd July 2008 colleagues from institutions expressed an interest in the media connectivity and profile of the **Enterprise Insight Make Your Mark Campaign (MYM)** and the opportunities for institutions to provide case studies to MYM as a means of raising the profile of HEI activities.

To take advantage of the media connectivity of MYM, institutions will need to be registered with the MYM **Ambassador Programme**. Registered Ambassadors will have the opportunity to forward success stories at the time of registering as well as on an ongoing basis; either via a quarterly call for stories or on an ad hoc basis when there is a major success which it is timely to promote immediately.

Details of the MYM Campaign and the Ambassador Programme are available on request from the NWUA secretariat.
Email to info@nwua.ac.uk

We hope the information in the second issue of our newsletter is of interest. You are welcome to forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested in it. Please contact us if you would like any further information about the projects mentioned above.

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please email us and we will remove your name from the address list.

Kind regards

The NWUA Secretariat
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