



## Introduction to training materials

The BeFlex Plus project set out to address the problem that university lifelong learning (ULLL) has not been high in the priorities of the Bologna process, until recently. It builds on the first BeFlex project funded under the Socrates programme, which provided a baseline of the state of play in ULLL and the use of Bologna tools in its development. It has produced a review of progress over the period leading up to meeting of the Bologna ministers in Leuven in 2009 and seeks to stimulate further development of best practice and innovative actions for ULLL, particularly those using the Bologna tools in regional learning partnerships and strategies for LLL.

These training materials represent one of the outputs of the project to achieve these objectives. In addition there is a full thematic report with executive summary and a full technical report of the questionnaire and case study data collected during the course of the project activities. A printed version of these reports is included in this pack and all are also available on the website:

<http://www.eucen.org/BeFlexPlus/index.html>

The training materials are designed to be useful and relevant for those who are relatively new to the area of lifelong learning as well as people with more experience. We hope that more experienced managers and practitioners will use the materials to reflect on their experience, adapt them to suit the specifics of their own situation, and will extend their discussions to consider additional areas that we have not had space to cover and will. We also hope that all users will challenge our point of view in your discussion – we recognise that our approach is often only one of many legitimate ways to address a situation!

Five topics are addressed:

- Exploring Diversity in University Lifelong Learning
- Curriculum in Partnership
- Implementing Institutional Change in University Lifelong Learning
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Regional Collaboration and Partnership in University Lifelong Learning

Each topic is supported by training materials suggesting ideas for training sessions. Each one includes extracts from the questionnaire data and case studies collected in the BeFlex Plus project with suggested activities for workshops and training events. Each activity lasts about 1½ - 2 hours and can be used as a one-off session or, by combining the 4 or 5 activities in each topic or from different topics, they can be used for longer staff development programmes.

The activities are designed to stimulate structured discussion about areas critical to the topic. The objective is not to offer answers but to encourage and stimulate users to find their own solutions, to reflect on the issues and their own experience, and to come to a deeper understanding of topics. The learning material is designed to be used in small groups either with or without a facilitator. The material can also be used by individuals working alone, but most of the activities require you to reflect on different approaches to issues, so discussion with others will be helpful. Of course it might be useful for users to organise discussion on-line.

We hope that you find the materials useful and we would welcome feedback: please send comments and evaluative feedback if you have used the materials to Pat Davies, the BeFlex Plus Project Director: [pat.davies@univ-lille1.fr](mailto:pat.davies@univ-lille1.fr)

The materials have been produced by Judy Rumbelow and Darryl Bibby of Bibby Rumbelow Ltd ([www.bibbyrumbelow.com](http://www.bibbyrumbelow.com)) in association with Pat Davies on behalf of EUCEN ([www.eucen.org](http://www.eucen.org)) and the Project partnership.

Project partners: Universities of Oldenburg (DE), Deusto (ES), Helsinki (FI), Lille1 (FR), Aveiro (PT), Lund (SE), and Kaunas Technical University (LT), Catholic University of Louvain (BE), Hogeschool of Amsterdam (NL) and London Metropolitan University (UK)

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