

## BULLETIN 03/02

July 2002

### Action requested:

- Discuss this Bulletin with colleagues in an appropriate meeting.
- Advise on Conference attendance if not already done so.
- Return Conference reply slips by 2<sup>nd</sup> August if possible.
- Consider contributing to RCBN website.
- Consider volunteering to join a Thematic Group.
- Contact us regarding contributions to TLRP presentations at AERA in 2003.

### *Phase III applications shortlisted*

An excellent group of 47 projects came through a very tough shortlisting procedure, and it is clear that we really are likely to be able to construct a Programme which, as a whole, will cover most of the life-course. Further details of the shortlisting procedure and outcomes are available on the Programme website. Support for applicants will be available from an RCBN 'buddy' and from a critical friend from the Directors' Team. There may also be queries to colleagues already in the Programme.

The quality of proposals overall was very high and showed enormous commitment and imagination by the research community. We hope that many of the proposals which it was not possible to shortlist within Phase III of TLRP will eventually be funded from other sources.

### *Project liaison*

As TLRP evolves, the Directors' Team will be increasing working in specialist education sectors. This means that all funded TLRP projects, individuals or activities will have particular links with a member of the team. We anticipate regular contact and visits, and hope that close working relationships will develop.

The links for 2002-03 are as follows:

### **Schools and Initial Teacher Education sectors: Mary James**

*Phase I networks led by:* Mel Ainscow, Robin Millar, Jean Rudduck

*Phase II projects led by:* Peter Blatchford, Martin Hughes, Carol McGuinness, Terezhina Nunes, Ros Sutherland

*CDAs:* Julia Flutter

*Fellowships:* Jennifer Brookes, Stephen Hodkinson

*Phase III shortlisted projects led by:* KM Armour, JG McNally, DM Lambert

### **Post-16, Community, Family and Adult Education sectors: Kathryn Ecclestone**

*Phase II projects led by:* Martin Bloomer

*Fellowships:* Mark Goodrham

*Phase III shortlisted projects led by:* M Leicester, JM Bloomer, P.Cunningham, JI Mills, GJJ Biesta, SR Baron, DF Johnson, RE Ivanic, M Osborn, L Tett, A Withnall, V Wilson

**HE sector: Andrew Pollard**

*Phase II projects led by:* Noel Entwistle, Michael Eraut, Mary James

*CDAs:* Mark Newman

*Fellowship:* Robin Bevan

*Phase III shortlisted projects led by:* JM Bimrose, RJ Murphy, BM Stierer, JS Williams, CG Rogers, MI Fuller, DL Adamson, B Andrews, CA Baillie, PCH Cheng, FJ Coffield, JL Brennan, E Lillie

**Workplace and CPD sectors: Alan Brown**

*Phase I networks led by:* Helen Rainbird

*Phase II project led by:* Michael Eraut

*Phase III shortlisted projects led by:* JR Murphy, L Unwin, AR Felstead, IJ Taylor, NC Boreham, HRJ Daniels, AJ Brown, M Fenton-O’Creevy

**ICT and Medical Education projects: John Siraj-Blatchford**

*Phase II project led by:* Ros Sutherland

*Phase III shortlisted projects led by:* WB Richardson, G Sadlo, RJ Cox, DR Fleming, PM Goodyear, R Goodfellow, RE Moon, TE Roberts, E Munro

***European Sixth Framework Programme***

The European Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) has now been approved by the European Parliament and the European Council of Ministers. It will start in autumn 2002. Further information about the new programme can be found on the UKRO website at [www.ukro.ac.uk](http://www.ukro.ac.uk) or on the Cordis website at <http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/about.htm>. The TLRP, as a programme, has been involved in a submission of an ‘expression of interest’ as a FP6 Network of Excellence. The proposed network, co-ordinated by the national co-ordinators of the Finnish Academy of Sciences ‘Learning as Life’ programme, has two themes: the reinterpretation of lifelong learning and the reinterpretation of work-related learning.

There have, however, been thousands of expressions of interest regarding the Networks of Excellence. On the other hand, the European Commission particularly wants to improve the coordination of research activities undertaken at national or regional level in FP6. The ERA-NET scheme strongly privileges interaction between national programmes and each network could receive up to 2 million Euros and last for up to 5 years (see [europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/era-net.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/era-net.html)). The network could involve substantive collaboration between projects in different national programmes. TLRP intends to co-ordinate a bid for programme collaboration under the ERA-NET scheme and has outline agreement on participation from national research programmes in Finland, the Netherlands and Norway. The approach to the theme of facilitating lifelong learning will be broadly framed so as to include how learning, assessment and qualifications in compulsory education can influence attitude towards lifelong learning and how the ‘learning careers’ of individuals develop over time and across all sectors and phases of education.

The collaborative activities to be undertaken will include thematic research co-operation; comparative research; joint cross-national workshops and conferences; and researcher exchange, especially training of young researchers. If any member of TLRP is interested in exploring opportunities for European collaboration, and more immediately in helping to frame our ERA-NET proposal, could they please contact Alan Brown ([alan.brown@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:alan.brown@warwick.ac.uk)).

### ***Programme Newsletters***

Thanks to those who have been helping to provide additional copy and photographs for the next edition of the school and post-compulsory Newsletters. Distribution will now be in early September.

### ***Research Capacity Building Network***

RCBN provision is now starting to come on stream and has been helpfully described by Chris Taylor in an article for *Research Intelligence*. There will be an opportunity to talk to RCBN colleagues at BERA, where they are presenting to the wider research community. The RCBN website has been revamped recently and there is a particular invitation to TLRP colleagues to contribute with ideas and comments in the 'Recommended References' part of the website (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/capacity/>). Please contact Helen Taylor with suggestions (email: TaylorH1@Cardiff.ac.uk).

### ***Development of Programme Thematic Work***

The first four cross-Programme themes have now been discussed by the Steering Committee. Others will be suggested in due course, and views will be sought at the forthcoming Programme Conference. In the meantime, it is proposed that the first four themes should be in the broad areas of:

- Analysing the contexts in which learning takes place (convened by Kathryn Ecclestone);
- Research quality (convened by Mary James);
- Developing effective communication and impact strategies (convened by Alan Brown);
- ICT in the development of educational research (convened by John Siraj-Blatchford).

One further theme, to be convened by Andrew Pollard, will be decided following discussions at the Conference.

The next step is to invite members to join each Thematic Group. If you wish to volunteer, or have particular suggestions, then please email Andrew Pollard on [ajp67@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ajp67@cam.ac.uk). We hope to have at least two researchers from Phase I and II of the Programme and also two users within each group. Other members can come from any institution in the UK or even overseas. In due course colleagues from Phase III will join to make up groups of between 6-8. Web-board facilities and other events will broaden the discussions further.

### ***Impact funding***

These funds are still available (see Bulletin 02/02 or the website for further details and advice). Jean Rudduck's network made the first successful application.

### ***Funds to Extend Research under Phases I & II to the Scottish Context***

The aim of this new funding initiative, supported by the Scottish Executive, is to commission a small number of research projects and/or post-doctoral / senior research fellowships to extend or follow-up existing research under Phases I & II of the Teaching and Learning Research Programme within a Scottish context. Full applications are invited from researchers / research teams with expertise, and a proven track record of research in the Scottish education system, by the closing date of 7 October 2002. Approximately £150,000 is available to support about 2-4 research projects commencing in 2003. Further details are available from the ESRC website (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk>, see funding opportunities page).

### ***Funding for Inter-Project Activities***

Following suggestions by Project Directors, we are pleased to announce a new, responsive-mode source of support which is now available to project teams. Each of the Programme Directors have been allocated some £6000 to support projects within their specialist sector over the next four years.

Although the annual budget is modest, we hope that the support will nevertheless be encouraging to project teams who want to meet together to share problems, explore theoretical ideas, build capacity, develop partnerships or whatever else can be justified in terms of meeting

project and Programme objectives. Please discuss ideas with your 'critical friend' from the Directors' Team and/or download the simple, one-page application form from the Programme website (available from September). Proposals need not be elaborate but must: a) have specific objectives, b) involve at least two projects / CDAs / networks / etc. The eligible costs are limited to travel, subsistence and meeting rooms. A short report will also be required. Until we have more experience of the demand for this scheme, Programme support will cover half of the justified costs and will not normally exceed £500 per application.

### ***Report on Network Conference***

Phase I Networks held their own conference on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2002 at the Rutland Arms Hotel, Bakewell, Derbyshire. About 21 participants attended, spending the first day discussing with each network in turn the nature and progress of their projects, identifying common ground and sharing good practice. The second day was spent drawing out common topics, and ideas about the value of networks. A fuller report on the conference will be included in the next Newsletter.

### ***BERA Conference, Exeter, 12-14 September***

Four members of the Directors' Team (Andrew Pollard, Mary James, Kathryn Ecclestone, and John Siraj-Blatchford) will be presenting in a symposium to report to the research community on recent TLRP developments. We aim to provide opportunities for people to ask questions about the Programme, to discuss its goals and progress, and to make suggestions. Any colleagues involved in TLRP are welcome to come along and we intend to flag up presentations at the conference by TLRP projects. There may be opportunities to share experiences.

There will be an informal gathering of those involved in TLRP from 7.00ish on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September at Wetherspoons Imperial Hotel, New North Road, Exeter. This is within easy walking distance of the University and conference site (towards St David's Station). There is a normal pub menu there.

### ***Programme Conference, Cambridge, 23-24<sup>th</sup> September***

We look forward to welcoming you to the Annual Conference, which will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon, just north of Cambridge. Packs containing letters, details, programme and venue map have been sent to all project leaders for forwarding on to their teams. If you have not received a copy, please contact your project leader in the first instance. The pack also contains two reply forms:

- a) Session choice form – on Day 1 there will be parallel sessions of project presentations;
- b) Theme preference form – on Day 2 there will be parallel sessions of thematic discussions, which will take into account the feedback you provide for us on the preference and comment form (which is accompanied by full explanatory notes).

We would much appreciate it if these two reply forms could be returned to the TLRP office by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August** if at all possible, to aid our planning process in providing for you a productive and stimulating conference. We also need to have any outstanding bookings as soon as possible please, also by **Friday 2 August**. Enquiries or suggestions should be directed to Suzanne Fletcher ([sf207@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sf207@cam.ac.uk)) and Lynne Blanchfield ([ljb32@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ljb32@cam.ac.uk)) or phone 01223-369631.

### ***Website and ICT news***

The TLRP website (<http://www.tlrp.org>) is currently being developed in various ways. The main objective is to make it more accessible. In due course, it will also include a number of WebBoard discussion fora to support communications across the programme.

Projects have already been requested to provide a named person who can liaise with John Siraj-Blatchford on all TLRP matters concerned with ICT services and provision. Some provision may be available to support project internal communications, and John can offer advice to projects requiring help in developing their own basic website. We are keen to hear about innovative ICT projects that you are involved in and about emerging needs. If your project/network has yet to provide an ICT contact for these purposes, John's email address is [js303@cam.ac.uk](mailto:js303@cam.ac.uk).

### ***Formative development***

We have had some useful advice from colleagues who participated in earlier ESRC programmes about the importance of *formative* evaluation and *prospective* planning, rather than relying on formal, end of award processes and retrospective reporting. The Directors' Team is giving this serious thought, and would welcome comments, advice or ideas from colleagues. We are already collating issues raised with us in an ad hoc way and considering long-term scheduling, but we may need help in developing systematic processes which are also light and flexible. If you have thoughts on this, please contact Andrew or Mary.

### ***Major future events***

It may help your planning to know the following. We anticipate holding a particularly large Programme conference in late November or early December 2003 (and are actively working on specific dates and venues). This is a period of maximum overlap in funded TLRP activities. Bringing together Phase I, II and III teams and appropriate users is likely to involve between 150 and 200 people.

The Directors' Team hope to be involved in two TLRP presentations at AERA next year. One is expected to be part of BERA's regular contribution. We hope to explain the rationale of the Programme and share some early findings, but plans are quite loose at the moment. If you have ideas or are also expecting to be at AERA, we would be very pleased to hear from you. The other proposal is for a joint symposium with the US National Science Foundation and similar bodies in other countries. Judy Sebba will be joining us for this.

### ***Finally***

We hope that you have found this edition of the Bulletin interesting. It is intended as a major medium of communication within the Programme. We would be delighted if the items in each edition could be discussed briefly at project meetings. Any comments, ideas and suggestions are most welcome.

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