

## BULLETIN 01/04

March 2004

### Action requested:

- Please discuss the contents of this Bulletin at an appropriate project team meeting.
- Affirm progress across TLRP, constructive support from UK government departments and the Steering Committee's appreciation of the 2003 reports.
- Note developments in the Directors' Team, and that two posts will soon be advertised – and perhaps even consider applying?
- Consider the Thematic Seminar Series Competition.
- Be aware of new capacity building developments – and consider how to take more advantage of RCBN's present provision.
- Note the Welsh and Northern Irish Extension funding opportunities.
- Welcome two new Associated Projects.
- Consider the European funding opportunity through ESF.
- Advise the Office if expecting to present at BERA or EERA this year.
- Note arrangements being made for Outputs Summit Meetings.
- Consider implications for you or your project of the information on updating the TLRP database.
- Note the dates of future TLRP annual conferences and stand by for details of the 2004 event.
- Log the possibility of holding a London event at the Nuffield Foundation's premises.
- Consider if any opportunities may arise from Taylor & Francis's circulation to journal editors about special issues derived from TLRP.
- Note the particular terms for book contracts agreed with RoutledgeFalmer.
- If you publish, but are not registered with ALCS and PLR, consider taking action.
- Note ICT Infrastructural Developments.

### ***Progress across TLRP***

There are achievements in all parts of the Programme.

For example, from Phase I, the concepts of 'expansive' and 'restrictive' learning environments are making an impact in some very significant places and student consultation ideas are being disseminated by the National College for School Leadership and in many other ways. Almost all of the Research Briefings have now been completed and press releases about key findings are being scheduled to reinforce appropriate events. Gateway books are now being actively developed. RCBN's provision is moving forward positively, with some interesting new thinking about principles for capacity building.

Many Phase II projects are deep into making sense of their data – a crucial stage in the research process, and are working with an increasing awareness of end dates. Some innovative impact strategies are being developed, often with the support of national user bodies where engagement has been long-established.

Almost all Phase III projects are now underway and work is gathering momentum.

Our existing Thematic Groups are now beginning to take stock of their recent work and are hoping to produce a series of special journal issues. These are being negotiated. A new thematic initiative is being launched.

The first quick-response Policy Task Group has formed and is focusing on 'Personalised Learning'. A seminar on this will be held at the DfES in May. A second group on 14-19 Education is expected to begin work soon.

Earlier this month, TLRP co-sponsored an international seminar at Southampton on the relationship between teaching and research in Higher Education. This was an excellent meeting and may yet make a difference in relation to HEFCE and government thinking on this crucial issue for the future of university education.

### ***Liaison with UK government departments***

Building on the Showcase in Edinburgh last November, TLRP is developing a close working relationship with Scotland's Applied Educational Research Scheme (AERS). The February Showcase in Cardiff significantly increased TLRP's profile in Wales, and we were delighted that the Minister, Jane Davidson, was able to launch the competition for Welsh Extension projects. With the support from the two departments in Northern Ireland, a similar event will soon be held near Belfast - also with extension funding being celebrated. In February, a constructive meeting took place at the DfES between the Secretary of State and Andrew Pollard. Following discussion, Charles Clarke asked officials to ensure that outcomes from TLRP projects were drawn to the attention of relevant Policy Teams within DfES. There is provision on TLRP's Steering Committee for non-voting representatives from the relevant government department of each country within the UK, and the colleagues in these positions are helping to develop ways of maximising impact in government circles. Nevertheless, following the ESRC mission, TLRP will retain a politically independent stance and will, for instance, release major findings to all major parties.

### ***2003 Annual Reports***

The Steering Committee was extremely appreciative of the quality of work reported for 2003. Members of the Directors' Team will be providing feedback on any project-specific comments and a public version of the Programme report should be available on the website before the end of April.

### ***Directors' Team***

There are to be two developments within the team.

First, after almost three years of splendid work, Kathryn Ecclestone will step down at the end of 2004 to concentrate on the development of the Centre for Post-16 Education at Exeter. An

Associate Director post (0.4 fte) will therefore be advertised soon in relation to Post-16, Further and/or Higher Education sectors. It will be tenable from anywhere in the UK.

Second, a post for a new Associate Director has been created (0.4 – 0.6 fte) to lead a new phase of TLRP's capacity building work (see below for details of how this provision is expected to develop). Again, this post will be tenable from anywhere in the UK.

These posts will be formally advertised early in the Summer Term. Applications from colleagues already within the Programme will be welcome.

***Thematic review and a new funding opportunity***

A paper reviewing the Programme's thematic strategies has been produced and will be considered at the Directors' Forum on 26 May. Meanwhile, a new initiative is to be launched. Full details on this will be circulated within and beyond the Programme. Meanwhile, a summary of the official call is included below.

***Thematic Seminar Series Competition***

TLRP aims to commission a number of Thematic Seminar Series to add value, complement and enhance TLRP's project portfolio. In particular, seminars will help to draw together and synthesize work within and beyond the Programme addressing a number of cross-cutting Programme themes. The competition will also provide a new opportunity for researchers and users to become involved in TLRP and will draw further on available knowledge and expertise in the UK and beyond.

Proposals are particularly invited in respect of a small number of strategically selected themes (please see the full descriptions of these in the call documents). These have been highlighted in relation to the aims of the Programme or are believed to have significant potential for adding value to it. They are:

- Teaching and learning policies in post-devolution UK contexts
- Analysing contexts for learning
- Neuroscience, human development and teaching
- Analysing learning transitions across the lifecourse
- Teacher roles, identities and professionalism
- Domain-specific learning and teaching
- The contemporary development of pedagogy
- ICT as a medium for teaching and learning
- Outcome indicators and measures of learning disposition, motivation and associated concepts
- Educational change, pedagogic development and sustainability
- Social diversity, difference and their influence on teaching and learning
- Multi-disciplinary research on teaching and learning
- Methodological diversity and research quality
- User engagement and the development of educational research
- Conceptualising teaching and learning

Groups of researchers with appropriate expertise are invited to submit full proposals by the **closing date of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004**. Seminar activity is expected to begin from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005. All substantial events should end by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006. Publication work will normally be expected to end by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006. It is anticipated that appropriate manuscripts available by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006 will be published before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007 through TLRP's publishing partnership or other provision.

The normal maximum sum available per award is £30,000, but awards of up to £40,000 will exceptionally be considered.

The funded seminars will be an integral part of the TLRP, and will report to the Programme Directors' Team and Programme Steering Committee. Successful applicants will benefit from many opportunities and support provided by TLRP and will be expected to contribute fully to the Programme, including participation in appropriate Programme events up to 2008/9 and in the Programme's publications and outputs strategy.

Full details of this competition are available at: <http://www.tlrp.org/manage/fund.html>

For a preliminary discussion of ideas, please contact the TLRP Director or a member of the Directors' Team.

Please bring this opportunity to the attention of those whom you think might have an interest in it. Significant involvement of existing TLRP colleagues is a requirement for applicants and a supplementary email on this issue explains how this is being approached.

### ***Capacity building***

Four major initiatives are now influencing TLRP's provision: RCBN, ESRC, AERS and NERF.

RCBN has been moving forward strongly, and organised a successful conference in February. The range of events continues to grow and, for those who attend, is much appreciated. It would be excellent if more researchers used this provision – and maybe that will happen if supporting capacity building emerges as an RAE criterion! RCBN has also been taking stock of what we have learned over the past three years – as represented by the lead article in the February 2004 issue of Building Research Capacity. It is now proposed that RCBN's provision should continue to the end of March 2005.

ESRC has now supplemented its Research Methods programme at Manchester by establishing a national Centre for Research Methods at Southampton. A further £4m is to be invested through UK-wide nodes specialising in particular research methodologies. From April 2005, this network of multi-disciplinary nodes will provide support in methodological development for Education, as well as for other social sciences.

A new £2m initiative for the development of Applied Educational Research in Scotland (AERS) has started work. AERS aims to embed capacity development work within three substantively-focused research networks and, in this way, to build social capital for educational research. AERS is also committed to the development of distance learning capacity building materials to satisfy ESRC training accreditation criteria.

NERF, and its associated 'Fundlers Forum', continue to discuss how best to support the development of research capacity. It is regarded as an issue of the utmost importance and there has been consideration of whether information about contributions to capacity building should be requested in all applications for funding (as TLRP's have already done).

TLRP's capacity building provision over the next few years will be developed to enrich and add value to the initiatives described above, and will be widened beyond researchers on teaching and learning to embrace all educational researchers. We will certainly encourage full use of ESRC's new research methods provision. More specifically in relation to education, we hope to find ways of working in close cooperation with UK learned societies and other organisations, so that capacity building activity becomes authentically embedded and sustainable. There will also be initiatives to support the career development of contract researchers. A new member of the TLRP Directors' Team will play a leading role in this development.

### ***Welsh TLRP Showcase and Welsh Extension funding***

Thanks to all those who attended the February event in Cardiff. Jane Davidson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, spoke about the importance of research in helping to realise the goals of 'The Learning Country' in Wales, and of the role of TLRP in particular. Bob Burgess introduced the event, his first public role as Chair of the Steering Committee.

Details on the new scheme for Welsh Extension funding is available on the TLRP or ESRC websites. Funds available are £500k and the closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> May.

#### ***Northern Irish TLRP Showcase and Extension funding***

An opportunity has arisen to nest the Northern Irish Showcase within an existing event on Teacher Education, to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May. TLRP will be represented by members of the Directors' Team. (The previously associated Directors' Forum on 26<sup>th</sup> May has been relocated to London.)

Details on the new scheme for Northern Irish Extension funding is available on the TLRP or ESRC websites. Funds initially identified are £300k and the closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> May.

#### ***Welcome to new Associated Projects***

Following Steering Committee approval, we are very pleased to welcome the first 'associated projects' to TLRP. Although core funding for these projects comes from elsewhere, their research is expected to complement and enhance our existing portfolio, thus helping our aspiration to study learning outcomes across the lifecourse. The research teams will be full participants in all future TLRP activities and will work within the Programme in the same way as any other project. The first two projects are:

**'Globalisation and the Skill Strategies of Multinational Companies: a comparative analysis'**, led by Phil Brown, David Ashton and Hugh Lauder. This is a £225k ESRC project funded from January 2004 to December 2006. Contact: BrownP1@cardiff.ac.uk

**'Effective Provision of Pre-School Education'** (EPPE) (1997-2004) and 'Effectiveness of Pre-School Primary Education' (2003-2008). The team working on these very significant DfES-funded projects include Kathy Sylva, Ted Melhuish, Pam Sammons, Iram Siraj-Blatchford and Barbara Taggart. The TLRP contact is: I.Siraj-Blatchford@sta02.ioe.ac.uk

More complete details of the Associated Project scheme are available in the funding section of the TLRP website. Suggestions for other projects which might be considered for associated status are welcome.

#### ***European funding opportunity***

The European Science Foundation's 4th call for social science collaborative projects involving partners in at least three countries is now open. ESRC is a partner organisation, and applications for UK funding are considered by the Research Grants Board in November each year. The deadline for applications is 1 June 2004. For details, please see: [www.esf.org/ecrp](http://www.esf.org/ecrp)

#### ***BERA***

We understand that quite a number of TLRP projects expect to be presenting at BERA this year in Manchester. Please let the TLRP Office know, with details of the presentation, when attendance is confirmed. It is intended to produce a flier drawing attention to the TLRP project presentations across the conference and we also hope to establish a stand promoting the work.

#### ***EERA***

TLRP expects to be providing a session on European developments, based on its involvement in the CRISS IT infrastructural proposal to the European Commission and leadership of EDRES - a cross-Programme ERA-NET proposal. Again, if colleagues are presenting at EERA this year, please send details to the office. It may be possible to produce a collective promotional flier for the TLRP sessions.

#### ***Outputs Summit Meetings (OSMs)***

These are meetings of key players for the purpose of agreeing strategies and coordinating project and programme impact work when the end of funding begins to loom into view.

Over half of the OSMs are now in place; and the other half are being arranged. Martin Ince, Media Fellow, will be present wherever possible, together with your critical friend from the DT and nominated colleagues from each project. The aim will be to discuss strategy and to coordinate the development of programme outputs (research briefings, gateway book, etc) .

Lynne is also preparing an 'Outputs Progress Record' (OPRs) for each project with as much information as the Office has to date on output intentions. This will be accessible to Project Directors (and their delegates) via the TLRP website and will provide a work-space to record and coordinate developments as they occur. The OPR will form the agenda for the OSM and Lynne will liaise with you about this from time to time.

Please contact Lynne if your OSM is not yet arranged (projects within a year of completion have been prioritised), or if you need advice on how to access your OPR (registration is necessary for security purposes).

#### ***Updating information for the TLRP database***

The TLRP Office team would like to alert all Programme colleagues that, when this year's newsletters are received in June, there should be a carrier sheet with them, on the reverse of which will be some database output containing each individual's mailmerged details.

This will show the information currently held about you in terms of your position in your organisation, rather than in relation to your project role, for mailing purposes. It would most helpful if you could advise the office when any of these details change. The carrier sheet serves as a prompt for this.

Later in the year we will send a record of project details currently held on the database so that you can alert us to any changes in staffing, project roles or other information relating specifically to your project involvement.

Lynne would also like to request Phase III and Scottish Extension projects (except those who submitted an Annual Report this year) to send the following information. Names of colleagues are needed who will act in certain 'link' capacities for the purposes of meetings and targeted mailings. These links are:

- Capacity-building link person
- ICT link person
- Publications and Outputs link person
- Media spokesperson

You will be asked to provide this information in your annual reports in January 2005, but we would be grateful to have the link names now for database and mailing purposes.

We also need the name and contact details of your project administrator, unless you have recently contacted the Office with this information.

#### ***Annual Conference***

The Annual Conference will take place on Tuesday 23rd-Wednesday 24th November 2004 (note, not the Monday/Tuesday as we had originally expected) at the Marriott Hotel in Cardiff. This hotel is situated next to the main Cardiff train station, further details to follow. The booking mailing is planned to reach you either before the summer break or in early September.

Projects in current funding will be invited to nominate two project members plus one user. Colleagues from projects which are out of funding will be informed of the event and will be welcome to apply to attend. Places will certainly be made available if space and the budget allow.

Travel should be self-organised and claimed back from the TLRP Office in the usual way for Programme events. A downloadable claim form is available at <http://www.tlrp.org/manage/admin/expenses.html>

#### ***Future Annual Conference dates***

Please note that the conference dates previously scheduled should be extended in your diaries to include the following Wednesday. In the light of experience, this is in order to maximise flexibility in booking accommodation at the venues, and in facilitating travel and courier arrangements.

Please therefore protect the following dates: Mon-Wed 28-30 Nov 2005; Mon-Wed 27-29 Nov 2006; Mon-Wed 26-28 Nov 2007; Mon-Wed 24-26 Nov 2008.

#### ***Steering Committee changes and Critical friends***

We sincerely apologise that details of recent changes and links to projects are still not yet available. It will be circulated as soon as it is received from ESRC.

#### ***A possible London venue for policy seminars, workshops and dissemination events***

Finding the right setting to engage in constructive discussion with invited groups of policy makers, practitioners, journalists and other educationalists is extremely important. The Nuffield Foundation has been developing a well-deserved reputation for the quality of the debates which are generated by events held at their elegant premises at 28 Bedford Square. TLRP and Nuffield are exploring a number of forms of collaboration and one of these is the possibility that TLRP projects may be able to use the same facilities for selected events. If your project is interested in this, please contact Andrew Pollard in the first instance or raise it when discussing events at your Outputs Summit Meeting.

#### ***Special issues of journals***

Taylor & Francis Journals are sending a letter about TLRP to all their education journal editors (including those using the Carfax imprint). This encloses a TLRP leaflet and advises them about our publishing partnership. It suggests that, although normal peer review process will certainly apply, they may wish to be alert to papers from TLRP projects. Ian White, the T&F Journal Editor, also makes a specific suggestion of considering TLRP projects as potential contributors to special issues. Some interesting academic opportunities may come from this. Additionally, as you know, all TLRP publications in T&F journals will be badged with our logos and electronically cross-referenced and this should promote interest and follow through for your work. If you do have a TLRP-derived paper accepted, please make sure that the editor and publisher realise that it is a TLRP paper (a note to the editor should be sufficient and, if necessary, another on the proof).

#### ***RoutledgeFalmer book contracts***

We have now concluded more detailed negotiations with RoutledgeFalmer concerning the specific contract for the Improving Learning gateway series. Although we have not got everything which we have sought, you will find a number of improvements over the standard RoutledgeFalmer contract. These include: explicit assertion of authors' moral rights and provision for consultation regarding proof return dates, expenses of corrections at proof and decisions on new editions. Royalties for several forms of subsidiary rights have been increased and author rights in relation to termination of contract have been improved. Some other clauses which could have resulted in charges to authors have been removed. The other terms, already announced, remain. The key ones are: an advance of £200 on MS acceptance, 4% of hardback and 10% of paperback net receipts, apportionment of royalty equally or as set by author agreement. A copy of the agreed contract will be posted on the TLRP website, within the Outputs Portfolio section, soon. As in Edinburgh, RoutledgeFalmer will continue to provide hospitality at our annual conference dinner.

We anticipate that similar terms will apply to TLRP A4 books for practitioners and to TLRP edited collections published by RoutledgeFalmer. The contract may also be a starting point for those wishing to negotiate terms for academic monographs. Just to clarify again, initial discussion about Improving Learning or A4 books should come through the Directors' Team. It will then be progressed through Anna Clarkson and her colleagues at RF.

### ***A little other income?***

While we are on this sort of subject, if anyone is publishing books and is not registered with the Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society ([www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk)) (a little from photocopying etc) and Public Lending Right ([www.plr.uk.com](http://www.plr.uk.com)) (something from books borrowed from libraries), then a small supplement may be just a form away.

### ***ICT Infrastructural Developments***

The TLRP Outputs Portfolio has now been updated and is available from the TLRP website Management pages (<http://www.tlrp.org/manage/index.html>). Many publications included by projects in their annual reports have yet to be registered with REGARD, CERUK and at the BEI. In order to support projects in registering their publications we have developed a single on-line registration facility that provides a one-stop shop for the registration of all publications in our DSpace repository. (For further information see: <http://www.tlrp.org/manage/admin/odb.html>). DSpace provides a repository to collect, preserve, index and distribute all TLRP digital assets. The TLRP DSpace repository also incorporates a Z39.50 interface that will provide EndNote access to all programme publications. This is intended to support projects in their management of publications. Support will also be provided to projects who wish to incorporate automatically updated project publication pages (and RSS newsfeeds) into their own websites.

Further work has also been carried out in enhancing our 'DotLearn' online file sharing and discussion facilities. A new 'Workspace' link has been added to each project gateway page to support programme communications associated with annual reports and 'Outputs Progress Records' (see above). Access to these workspaces is initially restricted to Project Directors and project ICT contacts but this may be extended by projects as they feel appropriate. Dotlearn users will also find threaded discussion forums have been made available to support the development of proposals for the Thematic Seminar Competition (follow the 'discussion' link from the TLRP banner menu - or enter: <http://sage.caret.cam.ac.uk:9000/>). PDF versions of the project posters have also been linked to each project gateway page and a full set may be downloaded from the 'File Storage' facility found in the DotLearn discussion area.

At the end of your project we will provide support for you to archive your project website on the TLRP server. Your publications page will then be automatically updated from the DSpace repository.