

# International Collaboration: adding value to TLRP research

TLRP seeks to enrich research on teaching and learning through various forms of national and international co-operation and comparison. TLRP is principally involved in four types of international collaboration:

- as an integral component of some projects;
- through co-operation between projects in different countries;
- through formation of other national and international partnerships;
- and through participation in international conferences, symposia and workshops.

## International dimension of projects

Many TLRP projects engage with international research at a number of levels: from the design of the methodology through to the interpretation of findings. The project with the most explicit international dimension is the TLRP Associate Project that is examining the skill strategies of large companies across seven countries – UK, China, India, Germany, Singapore, South Korea, & the United States.

## Co-operation between projects

Some TLRP projects have developed close links with similar projects in other countries, such as Finland, and projects in the Netherlands and Norway have included explicit links with TLRP projects. These bilateral arrangements have been particularly successful and complement attempts at larger-scale European collaboration. The value of bilateral links has recently been acknowledged by national research councils and there are now arrangements in place with a number of countries that will allow single submission and assessment of proposals made to two different national research councils.

## International partnerships at programme level

TLRP has been involved in partnerships with a range of national and international bodies with an interest in educational research.

Partnerships have been forged, in particular, with national research programmes in Finland and Norway. These programmes and other national organisations promoting educational research in the Netherlands, Sweden and France have been working together to see how they might contribute to the developing European Educational Research Space. The six countries investigated issues around web-based knowledge-sharing; cooperative analyses of best practice; joint examination of common policy problems and opportunities; and new approaches to research training and dissemination. The European Educational Research Association (EERA) and the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) have also been included in these discussions and agreement reached that one area that may prove particularly fruitful for further co-operation is workplace learning. While collaboration has centred on it has not been confined to Europe. Links have been made and are developing with the OECD and national bodies that promote educational research in Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

## Participation in international events

TLRP researchers have participated in a wide range of open and specially arranged international conferences, symposia and workshops. At many of these events TLRP has a collective presence as well drawing on the contributions of individual researchers.

## Future plans

In addition to collaboration in the ways indicated above TLRP hopes to host two major international conferences in 2009: one for Commonwealth countries and one in South East Asia.

**For more information:** contact TLRP's international co-ordinator Alan Brown [alan.brown@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:alan.brown@warwick.ac.uk) or visit [www.tlrp.org](http://www.tlrp.org)