

## The SEE Project Evaluation Learning Raid UK 18<sup>th</sup>-22 January 2016

### Introduction

The SEE Project Learning Raid in the UK was evaluated in a number of ways in order to assess whether the activity had the impact envisaged and whether staff left equipped to introduce activities and disseminate to and influence teachers and learners in their respective countries.

SES13-19 Ltd with some discussion with the Project Co-ordinator at Zlinsky kraj constructed a draft programme with background reading. The draft programme was sent to all partners and delegates. This was later modified and informed by a questionnaire completed by delegates as to what they would like included during the learning raid.

During the raid feedback was obtained from delegates as to their experience on one activity.

Finally an evaluation questionnaire was completed by all delegates at the end of the programme.

One of the aims of the evaluation was to include action research in the methodology in order to make any necessary changes for future practice and activity.

The following is the expectation from the learning raid as outlined in the project narrative.

### **Learning raids**

**Staff from partner countries will visit hosting country and learn from the practice there. This will be through observation/shadowing/lecture/workshop/discussion and other methods.**

**All learning raids will be interactive and afford those attending the opportunity to experience what works well in other countries and gain the background knowledge and experience as to how this happens. It is expected that staff will replicate these techniques in their own vocational settings.**

**Institutions hosting learning raids will be carefully chosen. They will be selected by partners at the preparatory stage of the project when they audit practice in their region. They will include vocational schools, employers, and institutions of higher education, training organisations and projects where best practice exists.**

**The learning raid will aim to provide examples of excellence but also challenge the practice and approaches of participants. They will aim to provide innovation and showcase excellence.**

**Young people will participate in the hosting and learning.**

**Participants will be expected to produce an action plan at the end of the raid as to what they will implement in their own country and by when.**

**The hosting institution will issue certificates to all participants to certify their participation and to indicate topics of education.**

**The feedback from the evaluation is as follows:**

**Expectations from Delegates**

**Ireland**

Visit a number of institutions  
Find out about ICT developments  
Look at whether the curriculum is informed by industry  
Find out more about STEM in general  
Enhance Maths and ICT skills  
Find out about work preparation  
Help to develop STEM related courses in my own institution  
Find out about experiential learning  
Networking  
Observe best practice  
Talk to professionals

**Czech Republic**

Obtain an overview of what is provided  
Visit institutions  
Understand the challenge of teaching technical subjects  
Find out about school co-operation  
Visit schools similar to mine such as secondary schools  
Talk to students  
Discover labour market links  
Establish new contacts  
Observe teaching  
Obtain knowledge of the British Education system  
Find out about new and innovative approaches to teaching  
Be inspired  
Enhance knowledge in science and language skills  
Find out how to attract students to Chemistry and Physics

**Netherlands**

Find out about student participation in society  
Find out about innovation  
Find out about methods for addressing dropout from education  
How is technology integrated in education  
Find out about differences in the education system  
Develop race equality and other equality approaches  
Observe how schools and businesses work together  
Share experience  
Learn how those who drop out are communicated with

## Turkey

Find out how teachers prepare and deliver lessons  
Visit a range of institutions  
Observe delivery of Math's  
Discover how to motivate students in designing activities  
Observe techniques that I can adapt  
Observe applied learning  
Design materials relating to chemistry  
Engineering and technology observation  
Observe STEM activities in the classroom that can be replicated  
Discover how to conduct design based science lessons  
Find out what kind of activities can be developed for the science lessons?

### Evaluation of Activity at Wolverhampton University

During the raid a morning activity at Wolverhampton University was evaluated by delegates. Over a two and a half hour period the University through a series of stalls and a presentation introduced delegates to activities they run to engage students such as forensic science and blood pressure checks. This was followed by a presentation/show of Science Shack and then a tour. Here is what delegates felt about the activities.

Delegates were asked 8 questions and then asked to grade the visit with 1 being the highest and 4 the lowest. They were then asked to make comments.

13 said the standard of presentations were very good, 6 said they were good.  
14 said the content was very clear, 5 said it was good  
11 said the support and advice offered was very good, 8 said it was good  
15 said the presentations were very helpful, 3 said they were good, 1 did not feel the presentations were particularly helpful  
11 thought the materials provided were of a very high standard, 8 thought they were good  
15 thought the organization was very good, 4 thought it was good  
14 thought the choice of venue and facilities was very good, 5 thought they were good  
In terms of overall rating 15 people give the visit the highest ranking possible, 3 give it a good rating and 1 rated it as a 3.

Comments made included:

It was interesting  
It was *excellent*  
Would like to speak to students and see other departments  
It was an inspiring day  
It was very good and very interesting  
Thank you so much  
Loads of ideas  
Great personable presenters  
Thanks for sharing ideas. It was a great opportunity to see how STEM is applied in the university  
Project surpassed expectations

Fantastic. Some excellent ideas to bring into the classroom.

### The overall evaluation

#### **All delegates completed a detailed evaluation at the end of the Learning Raid**

Here is a synopsis of what they said:

- **Has your knowledge and skills been enhanced?**

My knowledge has been reactivated

I have learnt about different projects such as Horizon and the coin project, grammar school systems and race awareness

I am more aware of stimulating pupils to chase their dreams

It is a great project and I wish we could do the same in the Netherlands

Yes I have a wider overview of STEM activities

Yes I am aware of the knowledge that students give to other students

Teaching and technology skills have been enhanced

Enhanced around the use of technology in Math's for example and Race awareness

The use of practical shows for motivation, the importance of involving women

Project planning was important and the desire to enhance student's independence is impressive

The involvement of students and their contribution to learning

Knowledge increased on robotics and chemical content of materials

Teaching techniques different

Much knowledge gained around projects

How the institutions link with primary schools

Ideas on project learning and science workshops

The importance of STEM

Improved my Math's teaching

The training day was very informative and beneficial

I will incorporate the employability worksheet into what I do.

- **Where your expectations fulfilled?**

Expectations fully met

My expectations were surpassed

I was not sure what STEM was beforehand now I fully understand

Expectations totally fulfilled

Absolutely fulfilled

Yes

Methods to increase female participation in STEM-yes

What I expected was high and it was fulfilled

There could be a bit more STEM activities design in the programme. It fulfilled my expectations to a high extent however.

I wanted to see some unusual methods. This was completely fulfilled

Expectations were fulfilled

Expectations fulfilled-new inspiration, motivation, useful methods

Expectations were fulfilled-new ideas

Race awareness was very good

My expectations were surpassed by a challenging and fulfilling programme

Yes more than

Yes all the institutions provided high quality events

More than fulfilled

I hoped to learn more and so I did

My expectations were fulfilled

My expectations were rather low on finding something new as I was here before. It turned out to be very good.

- **What will you do next?**

I will inform teachers in my region

I would like to introduce elements into my school and inspire students to strive for the best

Find companies who will support technical studies

Refocus on how we communicate with immigrants to help them

Develop further links with Cosford and the University of Wolverhampton

Work with companies to disseminate information and have an active role in the project

Training in interactive whiteboard. Keep in contact with partners

The topic of race awareness could be transferred to travellers in Ireland

Future group cooperation

Organise a meeting in my country and implement activities such as SCIFEST in my school

Discussions with senior managers

I will recommend more practical lessons

Recommend more independent presentations for students

Increase co-operation with firms

I really want to use new approaches in my daily teaching activities

I will implement the skills audit and student destination board as seen in Wood Green Academy

Will introduce techniques to my lessons

We will bring our Director of Education on a future learning raid

Adapt techniques into Math's teaching

Implementation of lots

Implementation of employability sheet

Encourage staff to engage in Erasmus projects

## **Summary**

All delegates felt that their expectations were met, mostly surpassed. One delegate would have liked a little more practical activity that they could replicate in the classroom. This was the only comment where a delegate wanted more than was provided. This learning raid seems to have got the project off on a sound footing. The mix of different learning environments, practical activities, projects, observations and so forth seemed to give the delegates plenty of techniques and ideas to implement in their own countries. Most delegates made a commitment to stay in contact.

The activity which was evaluated at Wolverhampton University also seems to have been very well received. Delegates seemed to realise that although this was a higher education establishment there was much learning for their institutions and students provided. They seemed to largely appreciate the method of delivery provided by University staff.

A few Turkish delegates would have liked a briefing on the education system in the UK at the start. Whilst the hosts provided detailed background reading for delegates well before the event perhaps

they could have included a short synopsis of this. This is a recommendation for future Learning Raids - circulate a brief document on the Education system in your country for delegates.

The projects which the delegates learnt about such as Scifest and Project Horizon seemed to have a big impact as well as the employability skills worksheet. Many were impressed by the self confidence of UK learners and felt the teaching techniques empowered them. This was a consequence of the learning raid and not a direct aim but many want to instil a similar approach to their own teaching.

There is no doubt from the evidence in this feedback that all were appreciative and learnt a lot, this is a strong partnership, where colleagues work very well together and respect each others views. They are keen to learn from others, to hear other views and are receptive to new ideas. The atmosphere was relaxed and professional. Everything ran smoothly. All appear to have equal standing and the ability to make contributions.

Schedules were adhered to, the pace seemed right, the programme was tailored to what delegates required. Questions and discussions were encouraged.

23 people attended the learning raid and received certificates of attendance. 25 attended the training day and received certificates of attendance including a certificate presented by the Network of Asian and Black Professionals.

**B Martin/Ian Crawford**

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