



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

**A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP**

## XPLOIT - A LEARNING COMMUNITY

*How did Xploit start to talk about learning communities?*

The Xploit mission was to explore how communities across Europe could identify, capture and exploit available European project and funding resources matching the needs and interest of the community.

The practical investigations and community networking made it very clear that sustainable *exploitation is not likely to be successful as isolated initiatives or actions.*

Therefore Xploit, along with many other European and global players on the learning cities scene, was encouraged to focus on how communities could be able to exploit and benefit from European lifelong learning and other resources, freely available.

The focus became communities' *capacity* to uptake useful EU resources; it shifted towards the existence of community infra-structures of collaboration and communication.



Xploit immersed into deep practical studies and initiatives aiming to explore what infrastructures should be developed and be in place to allow the community and its organisations to benefit from such resources - and how such infrastructures might be developed, and in different ways. No one-size-fits-all for developing into a learning community! Xploit found a variety of (*bottom-up*) drivers towards such a dynamic community, accompanied by different forms of (*top-down*) approaches to the very idea of a learning city or community.

This is why Xploit offers a mosaic of different resources: the idea of a learning community must be developed and conceived from different perspectives and always on the basis of the needs and interests of the community in question.

The Xploit project offers different practice based approaches to a learning community, along with guidance, including *consultancy*, resources in support of community initiatives.

Explore [www.learningcommunities.eu](http://www.learningcommunities.eu)

[Graphics from learning community centers in Wales UK]



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