

A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

XPLOIT - EXPLOITATION... AND BEYOND

The Xploit project set out to develop sustainable ways of exploitation of European learning and social resources - projects, products and funding measures. What is *exploitation* in the European language? Exploitation is much more than dissemination. Dissemination is spreading the news - large scale, quantitatively, letting people know, raise awareness... Exploitation means basically identifying, capturing and implementing available learning or social resources, produced in other communities or countries, in other sectors or in other contexts, but useful if adjusted to new realities.

In short, exploitation means not only knowing about or being interested in, but *directly using in practice*, and in other contexts than the one in which the resources were produced. Exploitation can include horizontal (from one institution to another) as well as vertical (taking to a strategic level, for example) initiatives.



Exploitation is, nevertheless, a demanding and complicated process, especially when talking about exploiting European resources: language, matching needs with resources available, adjusting to new realities - and very often it calls for new forms of collaboration between several stakeholders.

On one hand exploitation is highly needed to produce value for money; on the other hand genuine exploitation is not likely to happen very often...

This dilemma has haunted European funding and cooperation for many years, inviting the Commission to focus more and more on exploitation activities.

However, the Xploit project found that the most, and perhaps only, way to ensure sustainable exploitation is when proper and dynamic infrastructures of collaboration and communication is in place in the receiving environments, in other words in the communities, in and as *learning communities*.

Explore www.learningcommunities.eu

[Graphics from learning community centers in Wales UK]

