

EU Return project launched

15th October 2008

Portia Ltd is pleased to take the position of financial co-ordinating partner in an important new project, *EU Return: Innovative Training and Career Development Support for Women Returners across Europe*. The project is funded under the EU Lifelong Learning Programme and the Education and Culture DG. The Danish organisation Valbjorn, Romanian Romarketing and Portuguese organisations GHD and DeltaConsultores will also join Inova Consultancy¹ as partners on this project.

The overall aim of the project is to transfer innovative training methodologies in order to improve European vocational educational training (VET) and career guidance for women returning to employment/self-employment following a career break.

Project objectives:

- To transfer proven innovative support and career development methodologies from the UK to partner countries
- To develop a European 'training the trainers' package to transfer the UK Career Circles™ methodology to partner countries
- To transfer and adapt paper based materials to e-learning materials (e-career development module) to widen access to career development for women returners
- To enhance the provision of vocational guidance across Europe by providing quality career development tools aimed at increasing career-related self-efficacy of women returners

The consortium working on this project consists of SMEs all with specialist knowledge and experience in training, career development/coaching and gender issues (e.g. women in ITEC, women returners). In addition, consortium partners have well established regional, national and European networks to tap into for dissemination/exploitation of project results and to ensure widespread knowledge sharing of the new training methodologies developed under this proposal.

The outcomes will include women returners increasing confidence, career self-efficacy and wider vocational exploration of career options e.g. ITEC (IT, Electronics and Telecomms) and self-employment. Trainers will also have access to a wider repertoire of innovative training methodologies to train others in their countries and share knowledge across the European partnership.

The impact of the project will be upon VET and guidance practices and interventions aimed at women returners, providing innovative training materials and methodologies to foster women returners' career self-efficacy in order to reduce risk of exclusion from the labour market.

For further information about EU Return, or if you are a woman wanting to return to work and would like to participate in our Career Circles™, please contact info@equalitec.org.uk or Project Co-ordinators, Inova Consultancy at emparry@inovaconsult.com or see the EU return website www.eu-return.org

¹ www.inovaconsultancy.com