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ETB Promotional Work Progress Report – June 2015

Under the European Agenda of Adult Learning project, 'Taking the Next Steps', Education and Training Boards were invited to participate in a national promotional strategy by hosting events to raise awareness about their education and training opportunities and the outcomes and benefits for adult learners. In early February Adult Education Officers in each ETB were notified about the project and sent an application form to access €600 in funds to support an event. To date nine of the sixteen ETBs have applied for the funds and five successful promotional events have taken place throughout the country. The following is a short synopsis on some of the events that have taken place.



Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETB - Leitrim Learners Conference 24th February

Leitrim Adult Education Guidance service hosted a 'Learner Conference' which promoted adult learning and provided an opportunity for learners to explore their personal career development. Two learners spoke about their experience of the challenges and advantages of returning to education as adults. Motivational speakers at the event included Billy Dixon who spoke about confidence, while Christy Kenneally spoke about motivation and valuing oneself. This event was attended by 180 people.

Longford & Westmeath ETB - Student Writing Book Launch 26th February

Longford and Westmeath ETB organised a student writings book launch in Longford to celebrate adult learning during Adult Learner Festival week. The benefits of adult learning were highlighted by motivational and positive student speeches regarding returning to learning, and progression to higher educational attainment and employment. The event coincided with an awards night which was attended by over 100 learners who received their awards. Three learners gave speeches on their learning journey and the positive outcomes of participating in education.



Donegal ETB - Learner Networking event 27th February

Donegal ETB held a Learner networking event for community education learners. The event focused on the learner by making them the key participants in the discussions. Thirteen community providers were invited to bring four learners each to a facilitated event where learners shared their experiences of community education. One learner from each group made a short presentation on their experience of community education. A short paper will be produced on the findings from this event which included feedback on benefits of learning, the value of community education and uncertainty about future funding budgets.



Cavan & Monaghan ETB -Education for Transformation 25th/26thFebruary

Cavan and Monaghan Guidance service held a careers and information event in both Cavan and Monaghan to highlight the opportunities available to people looking to return to education and training. Community Education and Adult Literacy students spoke about their own experiences of returning to education. The event created an opportunity for prospective students to speak with current students on the various programmes ,which created enthusiasm for enrolment.



Limerick & Clare ETB- Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 23rd -29th March

Limerick and Clare Education and Training board organised a number of events in March as part of its Lifelong Learning Festival which takes place annually. A number of events were organised across the city to promote adult learning opportunities and increase adult participation at all levels, ranging from upskilling, learning a new hobby or returning to education. Events held included interview workshops, exhibitions, demonstrations and an education showcase which gave learners the opportunities to share their experience of the benefits of adult learning.

The remaining four ETBs; Tipperary, Laois and Offaly, Dublin /Dun Laoghaire and Kildare and Wicklow have submitted an application and plan to host Open Days in September.

All events were promoted through local networks (people/organisations/programmes) or local media (newspapers, radio) and social media. AONTAS also promoted events through the One Step Up website.