

## MASON PROJECT PARTNERSHIP



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### WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT:



# MASON

## Mainstream SocioCultural Dynamics to enhance NLLS

MASON - Mainstreaming Socio-cultural Dynamics to Enhance NLLS  
(National Lifelong Learning Strategies)

PROJECT NUMBER: 190986-LLP-2010-1-GR-KA1ECETB

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PROJECT INFORMATION WEBSITE:  
<http://mason.iacm.forth.gr>

E-DEMOS PORTAL ON LLL:  
<http://e-demos.iacm.forth.gr>


## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES


To put in place a trans-national peer learning process under the scope of enhancing the development of mutual understanding across the LLL actors and between the prevailing educational traditions in Europe on coherence and comprehensiveness of Strategies on LLL. The project is built on the results of a previous project EFELSE (Evaluation Framework for the Evolution of LLL Strategies in Europe; <http://efelse.iacm.forth.gr/>), where identified were the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the implementation of NLLS from a country perspective.


MASON's overall goal is to support the establishment and implementation of coherent and comprehensive lifelong learning strategies and complementary policies at national, regional and local levels across types and levels of education. The project focuses on the relations of the existing LLL frameworks with the implied socio-cultural dynamics of the region. It comes to be implemented in and on the development of understanding across stakeholders and contexts. Another important concern is the transfer of innovation of practices and actions from a learning tradition to another.

## OVERALL

Overall project MASON is an attempt to identify, discuss/negotiate and propose ways to overcome constraining factors in LLL through a highly reflective and interactive process.

 **PRODUCES NEW KNOWLEDGE:** on the relations between LLL implementation and socio-cultural dynamics

 **NEGOTIATES NEW KNOWLEDGE:** with stakeholders through innovative (focused) approach (Consensus Building) between stakeholders of different types and forms of education and training from diverse learning traditions

 **DEVELOPES TOOLS (PORTAL SYSTEM):** for exploitation of results (based on an Action Plan designed approach) and promotion of the LLL concept supported by indicators and case examples on good practices

The outputs facilitate policy articulation and enhance self-reflection in implementation and refinement of practices on LLL from a learning tradition perspective.


MASON seeks to address the reasons for the current diversity in the level of LLL development and implementation across the regions of Europe, and on such a base to facilitate an informed exchange of experience between relevant stakeholders in the LLL implementation process and policy design. The project takes the position that the path for LLL evolution in a given context is highly dependent on the socio-cultural and economic dynamics that shape the process of operations in that context.


The work conducted in the frame of project EFELSE - where defined was an evaluation approach to NLLS Strategy development and implementation, clearly pointed to the direction that the single most important factor for the promotion of LLL in the countries reviewed was the parameter "learning culture".


In order to enhance understanding on the process of reforming educational systems from a learning tradition perspective MASON intends to test a platform for on-going reflections on the ability of the LLL actors to effectively address system deficiencies in relation to LLL. This is within the frame of the peer learning approach and extends it in terms of Consensus Building between the stakeholders (in the form of focused workshops). The approach defines a set of good practice guidelines.

In consonance with the project scope and the objectives that derive from it, MASON produces a comprehensive and negotiated framework for reflecting on the socio-cultural dynamics that promote and/or obstruct the effective implementation of LLL in a given context. The framework reports on European Realities to LLL implementation (complemented with comparisons between the four prevailing learning traditions); country and comparative analyses on socio-cultural dynamics interplaying with LLL policies and practices in the countries: Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Poland, Slovakia and Spain.

## PROJECT SCOPE

 **1st Level:** through an analytical approach, constraining and/or contingency factors to LLL implementation are defined




 **2nd Level:** constraining and/or contingency factors are negotiated with representatives of the prevailing learning traditions - through a peer learning approach - in order to propose learning culture - sensitive indicators and support tools for policy and practice,


 **3rd Level:** the aim is to exploit the results and to empower agents of LLL to engage in effective-to-the-system implementation procedures.

## TARGET GROUPS

 **1st Target group** - Policy is the main target group for the long term.

By policy we mean:

-  The designers of LLL strategies at the national, regional and institutional levels i.e., policy design level committees;
-  These individuals who come to implement policy orientations,
-  European Commission structures (DG Education officials, Parliament members, Cluster coordinators and members of the Clusters).

 **2nd Target group** - beneficiaries of the good practice guidelines are institutions across Europe.

 **3rd Target group** - academic and research communities.