



## **PARTNER SEARCH: Erasmus+ Programme**

# **ASPIRE**

## **Aligning School Partnerships for Innovation and Research in Excellence**

*Proposals for a project to develop, transfer and implement innovative practice in school strategic partnerships led by Oldham Council, Greater Manchester, UK*

Oldham Council is intending to develop a project to the ERASMUS + programme. The Erasmus+ programme runs from 2014-2020 and supports activities in education, training, youth and sport across all sectors of lifelong learning including higher education, further education, adult education, schools and youth activities.

Oldham Council is a co-operative council, working to build a co-operative borough where citizens, partners and staff work together to improve the borough. We want all members of the community to play an active part in building our co-operative borough. This means everybody doing their bit. In order to make involvement in local activity and decision making simpler we are devolving power and resources to neighbourhood levels.

Oldham is one of the ten towns that combine to form the City Region of Greater Manchester in the North West of England. The City Region has a population of 2.2 million, Oldham has a population of around 220,000.

### **THE OLDHAM PERSPECTIVE**

#### **1. Project background**

Schools and colleges in Oldham, Greater Manchester, United Kingdom have established a strategic partnership to address issues of under-performance and progression to employment in the town. The Oldham Learning Co-operative Partnership (OLCP) aims to establish collaborative and innovative working in the following priorities:

- Early years education – ensuring that young children are ready to learn at school
- Assuring the quality of provision via peer review, with a focus on teaching, learning and assessment
- Supporting progress through key transition points between settings, schools and colleges

- Defining and broadening curriculum pathways so that young people achieve to their full potential
- Preparing young people for success after school and college – in employment and higher education

The OLCP is keen to learn from similar collaboratives in other EU countries, and to develop, co-create and transfer evidence-based practice to improve outcomes for children and young people. In particular we are seeking other municipality or regional educational authorities that will be able to contribute towards a comprehensive approach to educational policy development.

## **2. Project objectives**

The ASPIRE project will seek to achieve the following:

- Identify, define and share the success factors in effective education partnerships;
- Develop, co-produce and transfer effective strategies for improving the quality of teaching with a specific emphasis on under-performing groups;
- Develop, co-produce and transfer effective strategies for improving the quality of early years education, with a focus on readiness for school;
- Share and transfer learning on curriculum development in respective partner countries;
- Develop, co-produce and transfer strategies for improving transition to employment from education systems;
- Identify further shared and mutually productive areas for collaboration between participating organisations.

## **3. Project duration**

It is envisaged that the project will last for 2 years under the Erasmus + programme (2015-17), with the intention that the partnerships created will allow for it to be sustained beyond the end date of 2017. **The closing date for submission is the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

## **4. Potential partners**

Oldham Council, on behalf of the OLCP, is seeking expressions of interest from partnerships in other EU countries who are interested in collaborating in the ASPIRE project.

## **5. ERAMUS+**

It is intended that the Oldham project will be developed under Key Action 2: Co-operation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices. Key Action 2 is all about enabling organisations to work together in order to improve their provision for learners and share innovative practices.

Under Key Action 2 organisations can apply for funding to work in partnership with organisations from across the EU. The projects funded under this Key Action will focus on sharing, developing and transferring innovative practices in education, training and youth provision between participating countries.

Strategic Partnerships in school education can last for 2 or 3 years with a maximum grant of €150,000 per year and are a flexible way of working with partners from different countries. Strategic Partnerships in school education must focus on activities designed to improve education provision across the participating countries. Activities could include:

- Developing, testing and implementing innovative approaches and practices for pupils, staff and organisations
- Exchanging experiences and good practice, including through peer learning activities and workshops
- Carrying out joint research, surveys and studies
- Facilitating the recognition and certification of skills and competences
- Training, teaching and learning activities such as joint project work between groups of pupils, long-term study mobility of pupils, joint staff training events and teaching and training assignments.

## **6. Contact Details**

### **Dave Catherall**

Principal Officer, External Funding

Oldham Council, Civic Centre.

+44(0)161 770 5165

Dave.catherall@oldham.gov.uk