



SLIM-lines

The Newsletter of the Skills and Learning Intelligence Module (SLIM)
of the South West Observatory

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SLIM-lines is about to get even better... and though you may think that virtually impossible (*no they don't* – *SLIM Director*) we are to receive a well overdue format overhaul and will now help communicate the growing work of the Regional Skills Partnership (<http://www.swrsp.org.uk/>) whilst continuing to support the excellent work done under ESF and ERDF in the region <http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/european-prog/european-programmes.shtml>. Sooooooo from June we will be creating a new, merged e-zine - **The South West Skills Newsletter**. For now I will remain the editor/writer – so keep sending me your reports, events etc. Meanwhile our crack team of award-winning image consultants, web-designers and data-base engineers (*Kevin*) have nearly completed 'the look' and frankly we are all far too excited and may need a lie down, or indeed a pay rise (*take a lie down* – *SLIM Director*).

I notice that the Leonardo Programme are giving away [free maps](#) of the European Union to the first 300 people registering with them. In the spirit of this I can offer a limited number of personally annotated maps detailing the finest 'Little Chefs' South West of Swindon. Rush me an email to a.dean@ex.ac.uk. Bye!

Don't forget - Europe Day 2008 - 9th May. We've circulated further details with this edition.
http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/euday_en.htm

The world's most effective leaders all have a high degree of emotional intelligence (EQ)

Research suggests that EQ levels determine up to 85% of leadership success. Some of the characteristics of high EQ include the ability to build rewarding relationships with others, while not being afraid to make tough decisions. Click on the link above to find out how to develop emotional intelligence. Also in this week's issue we've got a new report on coaching, an invitation to join our public policy network, and time-saving links to online journals and company reports. <http://www.cipd.co.uk/E/R.aspx?U=14240&C=22288113>

Floodgates or turnstiles? Post-EU enlargement migration flows to (and from) the UK

This report presents fresh evidence on the scale and nature of migration from the eight new Central and Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 and, to a lesser extent, from Romania and Bulgaria, which joined in 2007. The report also draws on the results of a specially commissioned survey, believed to be the first of its kind, of Poles who have recently returned from the UK to their home country.

<http://www.ippr.org/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2Ffloodgates%5For%5Fturnstiles%2Epdf>

CBI/EDEXEL Skills Survey out

The 2008 CBI/Edexcel education and skills survey identifies skills gaps in the workplace, reveals the skills employers value the most and spotlights how employers are managing to source highly skilled people with the right qualifications. Completed by over 700 board-level executives, the survey gives a comprehensive view of business priorities on key education and skills issues. Worryingly, over half (53%) of employers are concerned there will not be enough skilled people in the UK to meet their future recruitment needs.

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/pdf/eduskills0408.pdf>

Thought for today

Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps, for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be.

William Hazlitt

The SLIM-lines is made possible thanks to contributions from the Regional Development Agency and the OBJECTIVE 3 (ESF) TA Publicity Fund.

More pupils than ever considering University

In spite of the potential burden of loans, three in every four students are thinking seriously about HE. Nearly three in every four students questioned on behalf of the influential Sutton Trust are thinking seriously about higher education, although many are dissatisfied with the standard of advice on the subject which they get at school. Now in its fifth year, the poll by Ipsos Mori for the trust finds that the share of would-be undergraduates in the 11-16 age group has reached 72%. Just over half of the 2,387 school students questioned - 39% - said that they were "very likely" to go to university or college while 34% said that they were "fairly likely" to do so. The number of young people definitely set against higher education has dropped in proportion, with the number of those very or fairly unlikely to choose higher education falling to a record low of 8%. Most of these - 52% - said that they preferred to "do something practical rather than studying from books", with half also wanting to earn money as soon as possible and a third believing that well-paid work was possible to get without a degree.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityaccess/story/0,,2276613,00.html>

New UKCES Newsletter

KCES is the United Kingdom Commission for Employment and Skills – the new body replacing SSDA and NEP (the Sector Skills Development Agency and the National Employer Panel). It has issued its very first newsletter, which gives a message from its Chief Executive Chris Humphries, and a summary of its role and remit. <http://www.ukces.org.uk/default.aspx?page=4581>. If you want to register to get the UKCES Newsletter directly in future, go to: <http://www.ukces.org.uk/default.aspx?page=820>

Commuter View – understanding commuting patterns from the 2001 Census

On April 8th ONS launched CommuterView, an exciting and innovative step forward in the field of understanding commuter patterns using interactive data visualisation. CommuterView is a product that takes previously released 2001 Census origin-destination data and formats it so that the key patterns can be readily viewed via the user's web browser. better.info@ons.gov.uk

DIUS Business Plan

This document sets out the role of the department, priority deliverables for 2008-09, the department's contribution to the Government's longer term and cross-departmental challenges, the resources available and plans for building and running the new department.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/770542>

3rd Sector Innovation latest

The research, jointly funded with NCVCCO, will fulfil a commitment from the Third Sector Review and will build on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (BERR) work on Government consultation. It will report in the autumn. The Third Sector Review published in July 2007 highlighted that listening and responding to the views of citizens and communities is a vital part of the policy making process and a thriving democracy. The Office of the Third Sector is therefore investing in research to promote better understanding of effective and innovative methods of consultation with the third sector and a diverse range of third sector organisations. <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=770623>

New portal for creative sector

Creative and Cultural Skills, the Sector Skills Council for the creative sector, has launched a web portal aimed at individuals and businesses involved in the creative and cultural sector. The Creative Choices website centres on three core questions: 'How can I make the best of what I've got?', 'I know what I want. How do I get there?' and 'I need to know I'm making the best decision. What can you give me?' The portal provides tools and networks to help people operating in the industry. <http://www.creative-choices.co.uk>

Young workers clueless about workplace safety

The report from the British Safety Council (BSC) showed that a young person is seriously injured in a UK workplace every 40 minutes. Children on work experience are also at risk - another report by the BSC found that half of the businesses it surveyed did not offer safety training to employees and work placement children were therefore at risk. <http://www.britsafe.org/feedcontents.aspx?id=100101>

New Reports and Publications

Guidance for RDAs in appraisal, delivery and evaluation

Sets out best practice for the full cycle of project development, appraisal, approval, delivery, monitoring and evaluation related to regional development agency (RDA) funded projects or programmes. Provides the framework for RDAs to develop the most appropriate project systems for their particular circumstances. Defines the terms 'programme' and 'project' and considers how the guide can be applied at both the programme and project level. Includes a summary of the audit trail requirements for Single Budget projects and the requirements for the acquisition and disposal of land and property assets.

[http://www.offpat.info/content-download/Final%20copy%20of%20GRADE1\(1\).pdf](http://www.offpat.info/content-download/Final%20copy%20of%20GRADE1(1).pdf)

Regeneration in European cities: making connections

This study analyses successful urban regeneration schemes in mainland Europe to draw lessons for the UK. The report looks at Norra Alvstranden in Gothenburg, Sweden's second city; Kop van Zuid in Rotterdam, Europe's main port; and Roubaix in Metropolitan Lille, a former textile town. It makes comparisons with similar places in the UK (Gateshead, North Southwark, and Bradford). An extensive literature review identifies where the UK might learn from Europe.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2177-regeneration-urban-environment.pdf>

Why place matters and implications for the role of central, regional and local government

This paper highlights some of the underpinning Communities and Local Government analysis which fed into - and supported a number of recommendations of - the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR) July 2007. This paper identifies the economic reasons why place matters and uses this as a rationale for spatial policies and highlights the policy implications, including the importance of intervening at the right spatial level.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/whyplacematters>

Assessing the Effectiveness of Different Forms of Support for Women's Enterprise: The regional women's enterprise initiatives

This report provides an overview of developments in women's enterprise policy across the English regional development authorities. It covers identifying and signposting existing women's enterprise provision and improving the female friendliness of mainstream business support provision, including developing new initiatives and providing additional business support services for women where gaps have been identified.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/763799>

Becta's Technology Strategy for FE, skills and regeneration

Implementation plan for technology in further education, skills and regeneration, which forms an important part of Becta's work to update 'Harnessing Technology'.

<http://feandskills.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=36018>

Globalisation and the South West

The following Deloitte report, produced for the SW Debate on Globalisation, assesses the region's historical performance in world trade and comparative position in Europe in terms of capital structure. It identifies possible policy areas that might help SW businesses to meet the challenge of the opportunities and threats stemming from increasingly global markets.

http://www.southwestid.org.uk/download/4149492c193830a20119389e2a4b0061/Globalisation%20and%20the%20South%20West%20-%20Final%20Version%2013_02_08.pdf

SMEs Report

Based on data obtained from Barclays Bank, this report looks at the number, size, sector and composition of small to medium sized enterprises in South West England.

<http://www.swo.org.uk/business/links-2/research-1/successful/successful-and-compe-1.shtm>

NEET Prevention Research and Development Project

The LSC has recently funded a research and development project on NEET prevention. The aims of the project were to:

- Clarify early identification and prevention measures that need to be in place to effectively reduce NEET in the 13 – 19 phase
- Agree a framework for good practice regarding early intervention and prevention of people becoming Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET).

http://www.swslim.org.uk/research/database/searchresults_detail_page.asp?ResearchID=2569

ESF and ERDF Latest

EC Commissioner in Plymouth

A 35 tonne steel ship section which provides innovative and realistic training for marine engineers was 'launched' by EC Commissioner Joe Borg when he visited the Plymouth Marine Skills Centre on Monday April 28. The 11 metre long structure - the first of its kind in the UK - replicates a vessel's hull and was purpose built to scale and then craned into the centre at Piquet Barracks, in Devonport, late last year. Now sporting new paintwork and fully fitted out for its training role the section will be inaugurated by Commissioner Borg when he breaks a bottle of Champagne over the hull.

<http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/news/release.asp?releaseid=2502>

Europass Mobility

Europass Mobility (EM) is an essential part of the Lifelong Learning Programme. It is one of five documents within the Europass folio. The EM records skills and competences attained by an individual whilst undertaking an organised period of work, training or study in another European Member State.

<http://www.uknec.org.uk/>

Claim your free EU map!

Sign up to the postal mailing list for Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal and we'll send you a free map of the EU! Simply fill in your details and quote the offer code 'EU MAP'. By subscribing to the postal mailing list, you will help us to inform you about news and events in your region. You'll also receive deadline reminders and other useful Lifelong Learning Programme information by post. So, if you're already receiving our email news, it's still worth subscribing to this service. Maps will be sent to the first 300 subscribers only so act now!

<http://www.leonardo.org.uk/news.asp?itemid=94&itemTitle=Claim+your+free+EU+map%21§ion=000100010003§ionTitle=News>

Leonardo Thematic Networking in 2008

The UK National Agency held the first of its 2008 Thematic Networking events in London on 29 March. Designed to be a forum for policy discussion, information sharing and the exchange of best practice, this event brought together social partners, policy makers and thematic experts focusing on the following areas:

1. Transparency of qualifications and skills, including the recognition of informal and non-formal learning
2. Continuous training of learning professionals
3. Meeting training and skills needs
4. Working with under-represented groups

For more information about our Thematic Networking work click [here](#) or contact the Leonardo team at: leonardo@ecotec.com.

Agora 'Investing in people: strategies for financing VET'

19 and 20 May 2008 in Thessaloniki

The purpose of the conference is to examine the various ways in which countries are improving public and private investment in vocational education and training (VET). In particular, the conference will look at mechanisms designed to stimulate private investment and shared funding (such as tax incentives, training funds, vouchers, individual learning accounts, loans). Representatives of EU institutions and Member States' governments, business, social partners and financial institutions will reflect together on ways to improve current financial arrangements. <http://agora.cedefop.europa.eu/vetfinancing2008/>

Experts wanted

Euroskills, the vocational education and training provider, is on the look out for experts who are interested in becoming a member of the Euroskills 2008 jury. Euroskills 2008 is an event involving a mix of competitions and demonstrations in six key vocational areas; road construction, cooking, logistics, fashion, plastering and social services. Experts are needed to judge the final winner in each vocational area and must be an expert in their vocational field and have both recent and relevant experience in judging vocational competitions. For more information on Euroskills 2008 click [here](#). You can apply by emailing info@euroskills2008.nl

Latest Labour Market Data

This month's figures show an increase in both the number of people in employment and the employment rate. The number of unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the claimant count have all fallen. The inactivity rate and the number of inactive people of working age have both fallen. The number of vacancies has increased. Growth in average earnings excluding bonuses has increased but earnings growth including bonuses has fallen. In the latest reference period the working age employment rate was 74.9%, up 0.2 percentage points on the previous quarter. The number of people in employment increased by 152,000 over the quarter. The unemployment rate was 5.2%, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. The number of unemployed people fell by 39,000 over the quarter. The claimant count was 794,300, down 1,200 from the previous month. The number of vacancies was 687,600, up 12,000 from the previous quarter. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk0408.pdf>

Lord Leitch gives evidence to DIUS Committee

There is some positive news for the government and the Leitch agenda looking forward: nearly half of employers report that they are considering or would consider signing up to the Employer Skills Pledge or the "Train to Gain" initiative. Findings show many respondents to a recent CIOPD survey are actively involved in learning and development. Nearly 80% of respondents have specific training budgets, with an average training spend per employee of £300. <http://www.cipd.co.uk>

Exeter University to invest £80 million in science

The University of Exeter has announced plans to invest £80 million in science, medicine and engineering over the next three years - which will directly support a Regional Skills Priority of boosting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). £30 million of existing University funds and an anticipated £50 million from external sources will be spent on new appointments and infrastructure to boost research and teaching. Professor Steve Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter said: "This is an exciting time for the University. Recently named Times Higher University of the Year, Exeter is now ranked firmly among the top 20 UK universities; but we have ambitions to rise higher still. There are already many existing areas of world class science at Exeter and this investment will enable us to further increase the scale and range of our activities." <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/newsscience.shtml?cid=L061-4839516-187B>

The State of the South West Report

Has now gone live for 2008. This is the definitive guide for regional intelligence and something everyone in the region can take advantage of. If you aren't familiar with it – then you are missing something significant... You can find the report here: <http://www.swo.org.uk/observatory/links-1/state/state-of-the-south-w-1.shtm>

Student cheating in South West grows

Plagiarism by university students in the south west of England is rising as undergraduates turn to internet essay providers. The University of the West of England (UWE) identified more than 300 cases of plagiarism in the last academic year, up from 245 in 2005-06. This represents about 1% of its students and could be a result of better processes for detecting plagiarism, university officials said. <http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,2278117,00.html>

Government fails to redraw map of English deprivation

The latest snapshot of local deprivation in England uses the new Indices for Multiple Deprivation (IMD) released by the Department for Communities and Local Government earlier this year, which measure the relative position of a geographical area rather than the absolute level of deprivation within that area. Changes in deprivation from 2004 to 2007 demonstrate the varying capacity to reverse relative disadvantage among local areas in England, although the clearest conclusion is that the pattern of local deprivation remains largely unchanged. <http://www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk/equality-uk-news/show-news.html?id=5341>

Jorum to move to open access

Jorum, the UK national repository for learning and teaching materials funded by JISC, is to offer open educational resources. This will make it easier for lecturers and teaching staff to share and re-use each other's teaching resources. JorumOpen - as it will be called - will also provide a showcase for UK universities and colleges on the international stage. <http://www.jorum.ac.uk/>

Campaign for Learning Events

The National Evaluation of Sure Start, 8 May 2008

With Dan Racher, DCSF and Catherine Prisk, Ann Tayler Children's Centre

Schools and Raising the Learning Leaving Age, 15 May 2008

With Chris Tweedale, DCSF and Simon White, NCSL

'The play's the thing': the Fair Play consultation, 15 May 2008

With Chris Waterman, Association of Directors of Education and Children's Services

Political battleground: still more academies? 29 May 2008

With Sam Freedman, Policy Exchange and Professor John Howson, Education Data Surveys

Meeting the Leitch Agenda for HE, 29 May 2008

With Professor Deian Hopkin, LSBU

The Foundation Learning Tier: the jewel in the crown of 14-19 strategy?, 5 June 2008

With Andrew Lambe, LSC and Dylan White, QCA

Full Time HE Students - Funding Higher Fees, 5 June 2008

With Dr Bahram Bekhradnia, HEPI

Featured Conferences and Events

SWO - 5th Annual Conference – Papers now online

South West Futures: Economic prosperity, housing and climate change

The 5th annual conference brought together policy makers and implementers, information gatherers and analysts to stimulate cross-thematic thinking on the major policy issues facing the region that are likely to be covered in a new Single Regional Strategy: economic prosperity; sustainability and climate change; and housing and population. Profiles of the guest speakers and their conference presentations are available for download from the [5th Annual Conference](#) page.

Employability+ Skills Festival

13 & 14 May 2008, National Star College

Employability+ is an innovative, interactive skills festival for both disabled people and employers. It is designed to encourage more disabled people to raise their aspirations and recognise they can and should be contributing to their local economies. It is also for employers to address their own assumptions and fear of the unknown, to become disability confident organisations and recognise the huge benefits to their businesses of employing a diverse workforce. Last year's event, which was the first of its kind, attracted 200 organisations supporting the event and over 1000 visitors over the two days. The event's success is in part due to its interactive nature which allows wider access and engages visitors.

charber@natstar.ac.uk

How Colleges can promote Community Cohesion

16 June 2008

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 33 Queen Street, London

This conference will enable participants to learn from authoritative speakers and critically share experiences and solutions from colleagues who work in different parts of the country.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/conferences/community-cohesion.htm>

South West Regional Achievement Dialogue - Skills for Life provision for adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

18 June 2008, Lyngford House Conference Centre, Taunton

www.niace.org.uk/RADMoodle (click on Log in as Guest)

Conferences and Events continued...

What do employers want? Employability and skills for a 21st century workforce

12 May, 76 Portland Place, London

www.cesi.org.uk

Employability+ Skills Festival

13 & 14 May 2008, National Star College

Contact: charber@natstar.ac.uk

ECLO's 2008

15 and 16 May, Danubius Hotel Gellert, Budapest

<http://www.eclo.org/>

All Change - How Can We Get Better Population Statistics to Plan Local Services?

Joint BURISA / Statistics User Forum Conference 2008

16th May 2008, Royal Statistical Society

More information is available from s.simpson@rss.org.uk

South West Workshop on the Accreditation of Prior Learning

22 May 2008, Somerset College of Art and Technology

cpateman@bournemouth.ac.uk

"Improving the Odds" Sustaining Employment

22 May 2008, Exeter Racecourse, Kennford, Exeter

<http://www.workways.org.uk>

ITQ Conference 2008 - The Next Generation

29 May 2008, QEII Conference Centre, Westminster

<http://www.livegroup.co.uk/ITQconference08>

A Welfare State Fit for the 21st Century: The Next Steps to Full Employment

3 June 2008, Westminster.

<http://insidegovernment.msgfocus.com/c/15qtEVzkcicNs8>

The BILD Annual Conference: Engagement in Learning

12 June 2008, CBI Conference Centre, London WC1

<https://www.swiftpage5.com/symposium.howard/C080331074900/speasapage.aspx?addr=31>

The Guardian 2nd Annual Further Education and Skills Summit 2008

18 June 2008, QEII Conference Centre, London SW1

<http://neilstewart.msgfocus.com/c/1LXtoOCOSQeNrTqa>

Welfare to Work Convention 2008

25/26 June 2008, ICC Birmingham

<http://www.cesi.org.uk/Events/showevone.asp>

Mindful employer conference

25 September 2008, Thistle Hotel Exeter

E-mail: info@mindfulemployer.net

Tackling Social Exclusion Through Partnership - Removing The Barriers

22 October 2008, Westminster:

www.insidegovernment.co.uk/other/social_exclusion/

End Notes

If you have seen any useful resources, are organising any interesting events, or want to pass on some information through SLIM - contact us at: a.dean@exeter.ac.uk