



Record of the First Seminar: Responding to the Educational Needs of Post-School Youth

Date: 19 August 2008
Venue: Highlands Country House
Time: 10h00 – 13h00: Joint Meeting of Reference and Task Groups
14h00-16h00: Concurrent Meeting of Task Groups

Attendance:

Nico Cloete (CHET)
Cassie Kruger (False Bay College)
Fatima Dada (Maskew Millar)
Joy Papier (UWC FETI)
Seamus Needham (UWC FETI)
Theuns Laubscher (ICG)
Heather Nel (NMMU)
Rolf Stumpf (CHET)
Cally Arlington (UCT)
Charles Sheppard (NMMU)
Murray Leibbrant (UCT)
John Butler-Adam (Ford Foundation)
Barbara Schaijer-Peleg (Bronx Community College)
Carolyn Williams (Bronx Community College)

Apologies:

George Lenyai (CHET)
Peliwe Lolwana (Umalusi)
Brian Figaji (Consultant)
Martin Mulcahy (Special Advisor to the Minister of Education on FET)

Issues Discussed:

Welcome and Apologies

Joy Papier welcomed everyone and apologies were recorded. The meeting noted with concern the lack of clarity regarding a representative from the Department of Education.

Background and Overview of the Project

Nico Cloete provided a brief overview of the project and noted two key project areas, namely: scoping the needs of post-school youth and a research project to investigate options. He provided a presentation on the scale and scope of post-school youth in his presentation 'Trying to Get a Better picture of the Current Institutional and Conceptual Exclusion of Youth – Pyramids and Calabashes', which is attached as part of this record. The presentation included a case study of Korea, where both public and private education receives state funding. Responses to this presentation queried the capacity of public FET Colleges to take up large numbers of additional students, the length of time adult students took to restart studies in private institutions after completion of schooling and that many FET qualifications do not lend themselves to distance learning.

Capacity Building Project

Rolf Stumpf, Seamus Needham and Joy Papier provided a joint presentation on Creating Opportunities for Post School Young People, which is attached as part of this record. A range of possible case studies of HE – FET partnerships was placed for discussion as well as two possible HE- FET partnership models. Responses to this presentation did not identify any additional HE-FET partnerships models; however additional case studies were identified. Divisions between the funding of public and private education provision were noted and questions raised about why HE institutions would subsidise FET provision of Higher Education qualifications at NQF Levels 5-6. It was felt that while government policy spoke of differentiation for the FET College and HE sector, funding tended to push institutions towards emulating one another.

Scoping Needs Project

Charles Sheppard provided a presentation entitled "Responding to the Educational Needs of Post-School Youth: Determine the Scope of the Problem", which outlined the research approach. Responses to this presentation included additional data sources and the need to work with longitudinal surveys for further understanding of change and choices of educational provision within cohorts. Other responses noted the difficulty of adults undertaking NSC or NCV qualification routes as these were not designed for part-time study.

Concurrent Group Meetings

After lunch, the two working groups convened concurrently and engaged in detailed planning for Scoping Needs of Post-School Youth and the Capacity Building components of the project respectively.

Way Forward

It was proposed that the Task Group meet with the Department of Education and report back to the broader Reference and working groups on the outcomes of this meeting.

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Task groups

The Project consist of the following three groups:

- **Reference Group** – this group of people have extensive experience/expertise about the FET sector (many were involved in the 2006 DoE FET Recapitalisation study). The task of the reference group is to share their experiences/expertise with the two task groups, to participate in relevant task groups if interested/appropriate, to comment on final reports and to participate in the national conference where the report will be tabled.
- **Capacity Building** – the research leader is Prof. Stumpf and this group will look at different possible approaches to capacity/linkages building between the FET and the university sector.
- **Scoping Group** – the research leader is Dr Charles Sheppard and this group will try to determine the number of students who are in need of post school training.

19 AUGUST 2008

09h30	Arrival and tea	
10h00	Welcome <i>Joy Papier</i>	Joint meeting of Reference Group and Task Groups
10h15	Project overview <i>Nico Cloete</i>	
10h45	General discussion	
11h30	Capacity Building Project and Comments <i>Rolf Stumpf</i>	
12h00	Scoping Needs Project and Comments Charles Sheppard	
12h30	Summing Up <i>Joy Papier & Nico Cloete</i>	
12h45	Lunch	
14h00	Concurrent Groups: Capacity Building and Scoping Needs Groups	Concurrent meeting of Task Groups
16h00	Coffee and departure	
16h30	Project coordinators meet	

