
	<p>Policies for Regional Cooperation in the field of Lifelong Learning Brussels, 16th February 2010</p>	
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Cooperation among Regional governments is crucial to implement European strategies of LLL

The PRECOLL-project has played an important part in putting lifelong learning on the agenda in Jamtland. Sweden is a centralised state where the national level has all the legislative power. Even so the regions and the municipalities at a local level are important for the implementation of EU strategies. As in most countries, the regions in Sweden are heterogeneous with regard to, for example, density of population, employment opportunities or infrastructure and it is on the regional level measures can be taken to adapt learning to the regional needs.

After seeing many examples of how other European regions work with LLL there is now a commitment to make a programme for LLL for the region, which will have a broad perspective and include all levels of education and learning as well as a coordination with strategies for employment, sustainable development and other regional priorities. Looking at examples from other parts of Sweden has not been enough to start this work, because the differences are small in the way education and learning are dealt with, but the differences between densely populated urban areas in the south of Sweden and the sparsely populated mainly rural areas of the northern regions are great.

More inspiration and help is gained by looking at other regions in Europe, whether they are very similar or entirely different, we can still get a better understanding for how other regions tackle the same challenges as we face, such as an ageing population, the need to foster entrepreneurship or work for increased social inclusion.

Our challenge now is to create a programme for lifelong learning that has a widespread support in the region, which is necessary for being able to implement it. It will be vital for our region to be able to cooperate with other regions, to form networks and partnerships in order to develop methods and structures and learn from each other. Therefore, it is important to us that there are supportive structures within the EU that enables regions to cooperate to reach their common objectives. The PRECOLL project has shown that there are many things for

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regions to learn from each other. One challenge now is to implement strategies, to make the people working with lifelong learning aware of the goals and the strategies. Here, we are sure that a cooperation between regions will be very useful.

This development will be very important in working towards the European goals for education and training. Having bilateral and multilateral agreements, or working together on different projects in a network of regions, is incredibly important to the regional development in many different areas. We need to continue the trans-regional collaboration in the area of lifelong learning.