Briefing on the Isabel project

Isabel project is a 2 years project that began in December 2010. It is a partnership between 11 organisations in 6 different countries funded under the EU Lifelong Learning programme. Its primary aim is to develop a Community Reporter programme (www.isabelproject.eu)

What is Community reporting?

Community reporting is designed to support individuals and communities in developing their own voice in order to:

- challenge perspectives and enable them to describe their own reality
- improve their neighbourhoods and communities by presenting positive stories, views and concerns
- develop dialogue between communities and agencies to support community cohesion
- raise aspirations of individuals
- work with the whole community to develop their own solutions

The Isabel programme is based on the model developed by Peoples Voice Media, a "not for profit" organisation based in Manchester that have been developing community reporting with different communities since 1995.

www.peoplesvoicemedia.co.uk

Have a look at http://communityreporting.co.uk and see some of the stories.

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission"
What does it involve?

The programme is about developing stories – it is not just about gaining media skills. The skills involved include making videos, interviewing and writing blogs but they are the means to an end. The objective is to communicate and to allow individuals and communities to have their say.

The training is in three stages

1. What is community reporting – creating the story.
2. Learning a media skill (can be video making, audio interviewing or writing a blog with photographs using whatever is available from mobile phone up...)
3. Publishing the story (can be a web site, community newspaper, local radio etc)

This piloting phase of the project runs until the end of April 2012.

What is needed?

The main resource is the learners’ time. The training is provided for free.

The initial training in these three phases takes around 12-15 hours with groups of no more than 10 people. The individuals and groups will then decide how much time they spend on developing a story. If a Learning Centre is available that would be ideal but as long as some ICT resources are on hand then all the training can take place.

Some support hardware such as a flip camera can be available but the requirement is driven by the learners.

How to get involved

Contact your local coordinator - ...........

The support and training is provided by The MRS Consultancy, based in Well, North Yorkshire, which is managing the Isabel project in Yorkshire and the Humber.

roy.smith@mrsconsultancy.com or Roy Smith on 05602 099019

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission"