



# RECOVEU – A participative approach to curriculum development for adults in addiction recovery across the EU

## What is RECOVEU?

- An international partnership of educators and practitioners working in the field of drug addiction. Partners are based in the UK, Ireland, Italy, Cyprus, and Romania.
- The project aims to develop innovative learning activities to help adults in addiction recovery prepare for, and succeed in, college or university. The learning activities will take into account the specific barriers that socially disadvantaged people, such as those in addiction recovery, often face.
- The project began in January 2014 and is due to complete in December 2016.

## How does the project work?

The project is creating a dialogue among educators, people in recovery, and drug treatment providers, using both face-to-face and online tools and methodologies, with the goal of developing an asset-based 'Access to Learning' Course Pack.

By creating awareness among adult education providers of the issues that people in recovery from long-term drug or alcohol misuse face, educators can make sure their programmes meet the needs of those in recovery.

## What have we done so far?

- A review of policy and practice in relation to drug recovery programmes across Europe. This has drawn on existing data and the experiential knowledge of the partners to develop a more nuanced understanding of the impact of drug policy and EU strategy in each of the partner countries, with a particular emphasis on how this influences practice in drug treatment.
- Focus groups with people in addiction recovery and service providers across the five partner countries. Discussions have focused on barriers to accessing education, topics which should be included, practical access and support. We are currently in the process of analysing the focus group data.

## Main findings from the policy and practice review:

- Within each of the partner countries people with addiction related problems are referred to using different 'labels' which reflect the dominant discourse around addiction.
- There are few specific opportunities for adults in recovery to engage with employability programmes in the five partner countries.
- Currently there are no Access to Learning programmes designed specifically for people in recovery or which take into account any specific issues or barriers they face.
- One of the challenges identified is working within a medical definition of recovery and a resultant lack of recognition of the way in which non-medicalised and non-addiction specific interventions can contribute to treatment and to the development of social capital and social reintegration. This situation differs for all the partners, who are each at different stages in the extent to which the recovery discourse is recognised at a policy level.
- All the partner countries are affected by the lack of consensus on addiction treatment and recovery. The evidence from this review suggests that drug users can often be the target of moralistic judgments within predominantly medical treatment contexts: judgments that can affect the way in which policy is enacted, the direction of funding and the availability of services in all partner countries.

## What will RECOVEU produce?

- Facilitation Pack for educators and trainers which will consist of the 'Access to Learning' Course Pack, Evaluation Toolkit and Guidelines for delivery.
- Website with news and resources related to adult education and addiction recovery ([www.recoveu.org](http://www.recoveu.org))
- E-learning Platform containing the 'Access to Learning' Course Pack together with activities and tools for digital learning, networking and interaction.
- Train the Trainers Module.
- An international conference.
- Online press releases and newsletters.



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## Further RECOVEU information:

For the overall project:

- [www.recoveu.org](http://www.recoveu.org)
- [www.facebook.com/recoveu](https://www.facebook.com/recoveu)
- [info@recoveu.org](mailto:info@recoveu.org)



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