

## PRESS RELEASE

8 October 2009

### **ECOTEC and the Welsh Government to work together to promote European Lifelong Learning Programme opportunities to Welsh learners**

As part of an ambitious new strategy to transform education and training in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government and the UK National Agencies for the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) are to work together to encourage learning providers to add a European dimension to their curricula.

The Government's World Class Wales policy document, published in October, endorses the international opportunities available under the LLP, as valuable to supporting learners to compete in the global economy. To increase take-up by Welsh organisations, the Government has committed itself to close cooperation with ECOTEC and the British Council — the agencies responsible for the Programme in the UK.

Under the LLP, organisations can involve learners and employees of all ages in activities such as volunteering abroad, student and staff exchanges and partnerships between institutions.

The Programme's benefits are particularly wide ranging, since it is open to employers, trade unions and non profit organisations, as well as traditional educational institutions.

World Class Wales recognises this opportunity as part of a long-term response to the current economic crisis and the changing global situation, in which the Welsh workforce faces increased competition from emerging markets such as China and India.

The Lifelong Learning Programme has an important role to play, since it supports organisations across Europe to develop ideas and share best practice in partnership.

Those interested in finding out more about the Lifelong Learning Programme can attend a free ECOTEC Information Day, taking place in Camarthen on 10 November 2009.

Find out more at **[www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk](http://www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk)**

You can view the World Class Wales Report at **<http://bit.ly/worldclasswales>**

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