



PROJECT UPDATE – MARCH 2005

Project Outline

The NIIMLE project offers a range of web based services to students in every FE and HE institution in the region. Students can access their personal data, run a learning pathways search and discuss courses with a class tutor online. They can also view their personal record (including transcript) and use the PDP service to reflect on and update their current skills and competencies.

Core Data Service

The NIIMLE home page is personalised to the individual user and displays core data including name, college and student ID. This home page also serves as a launch pad for the other services. Over the summer of 2004 a dedicated server was installed in each of the eighteen institutions and linked to the institution's MIS system (the NICIS system in the colleges). This ensures that the information shown to students is taken from their own institution and not stored by NIIMLE.

Pathways and Mentoring Services

The pathway and mentoring services were trialled with students at each institution in December. Students logged on to the portal to view details of their current course and search pathway information on other courses in the Northern Ireland based FE/HE colleges.

As well as getting information on courses, the students can view frequently asked questions and post queries to the course discussion forums. Simultaneously the mentors can log on and reply to queries posted to their forum. During the pilot stage of the project a class of multi media and either hospitality & catering or leisure & tourism students were used from each

college. It is anticipated that eventually the NIIMLE will extend to all subjects.

Personal Development Planning and Transcript Service

During March 2005 additional services were added to the portal and further trials will be carried out with the students after Easter. For example, as students progress through a course, their achievements will be added to learner records and their personal development plans made available. A CV will be generated from these records which the student can also add to.

The NIIMLE transcript and PDP services will utilise the data recorded in the institutional student record systems.

The project is also working with the FE ISLA group and is interested in extending the PDP service to provide an electronic ISLA for students in the colleges.

Staff Development and Training

During December 2004, academic staff in each institution attended one of three training sessions to cover use of the NIIMLE portal and set up the frequently asked questions and discussions forums for their courses. The same academics were involved in the December trials and will also be involved in the final trials around April/May.

NIIMLE is supported by JISC and the Department for Employment and Learning.

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