



According to forecasts of employment trends, skill requirements for jobs are increasing, whereas job opportunities for low-skilled and unskilled workers are facing a dramatic decline. Since learning has become a necessary precondition for successful employment, the concept of "self-directed learning" can be a solution for this dilemma.

'Learn.Empowerment - Self-directed Learning for Low-skilled Unemployed People' is a LEONARDO DA VINCI PROJECT that brings together 21 partners from 11 European countries to research on this issue.  
Website: [www.learn.empowerment.org](http://www.learn.empowerment.org)

Impressum:  
Project promoter: BEST Institut für berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personaltraining  
A-1070 Vienna, Austria.  
Contact person: Wolfgang Eisenreich  
[www.best-training.com](http://www.best-training.com)



# Learn.Empowerment

Self-directed Learning for Low-skilled Unemployed People

## Newsletter 1 - June 2005

### The project will introduce self-directed learning into labour market oriented training

The **Guidelines** reflect the background of self-directed learning and comprise theoretical and conceptual aspects as well as the consideration of Gender Mainstreaming, Diversity Management and target group oriented aspects.

The **Toolbox** describes self-directed learning as didactic concept as it has been jointly elaborated by the partners in this project. It reflects the situation and understanding of the partners and their ideas of teaching and learning on which this concept is based. It describes the organisational aspects of SDL, the role of the trainers as tutors, provides links and is illustrated by cases of good practice.

The project also addresses another issue which is indirectly related to new learning approach: "How can innovative project results be transferred into the funded training mainstream?" To contribute to the implementation of self-directed learning into regular trainings the partnership will elaborate an analysis and recommendations of European **Tender specifications**.

All products are available for free download;  
[www.learn-empowerment.org](http://www.learn-empowerment.org)

### Project "PROF"

bbb, Bureau for the Planning of Vocational Education, our German developer partner, performs the scientific monitoring at the network "Professional learning counselling in various activity contexts" that is funded by the European Social Fund.

Read more at [www.bbb-dortmund.de](http://www.bbb-dortmund.de)

Gerhard Reutter (German Institut for Edult Education) and  
Rosemarie Klein, director of bbb



### Today, the most important skill is learning how to learn

With this comment, Thomas Friedman, author of the 2005 best-seller *The World Is Flat*, echoed the wisdom of decades of educators committed to the importance of developing lifelong learners.

Read more at the new issue of the "International Journal of self-directed Learning"