



1. Policy/practice

* Title	Learndirect UK	
* Full contact details	Ufi Headquarters Sheffield Office Dearing House 1 Young Street Sheffield S1 4UP Switchboard Tel: (0114) 291 5000 Central Fax: (0114) 291 5001	
* Keywords (These should also refer to themes relevant to other objectives groups where appropriate)	Database of learning centres in UK, training providers, on-line learning centres, Modular courses, vocational education, modular curricula, schooling and continuing education, quality in education, accreditation	
* Key priority(ies) addressed	Ufi was established to focus the following key priorities in training and skills sector: Work-based Learning Lifelong learning Continued Professional Development	
* Duration of policy/initiative	Date of beginning: 1998	Date of end: continuing
* Outline, Summary (max. 500 characters)		
Learndirect has been developed and supported by Ufi (University for Industry established in 1998) and aims to provide high quality post-16 learning. In 2000, The Scottish University for Industry (SUfi) was established by Scottish Ministers. Both learndirect and learndirect Scotland operate a network of over 800 online learning centres and training providers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They aim to provide flexible learning opportunities to individual adults wanting to develop new skills or to improve the existing ones. They also aim to help the employers who want their employees equipped with innovative skills required for the field. There is a huge databank of modules and training providers who could deliver the training modules across various areas.		

2. Contextual information

* Regard as previous national/regional policies/initiatives in the key priority considered
<p>learndirect UK offers details of around 500 training centres offering different courses covering a range of subjects, including management, IT, Skills for Life and languages, at all levels. The courses and training offered by learndirect can be acquired at a learning centre, a college, a university, a workplace, at home and on-line. Full details of courses are available on the website of learndirect.</p> <p>Another service offered to business is named as 'learndirect business'. The aim is to offer product and services to businesses to enhance their work force capacity in an effective and efficient way. learndirect business offers over 140 short, online and DVD/CD based courses vital for a small business at a very low cost. In addition, it help individuals to acquire on-site skill-based qualifications involving modules based on both practice and fieldwork. Individuals can gain nationally recognized qualifications NVQs and employers get maximum benefit of their employees' competence.</p> <p>Another important feature of learndirect UK is the career and learning advice service. There are over 900,000 courses on offer and a tailored advice service is also available. Online users can enter their postcode and area of interest to find the nearest training provider.</p>



Leonardo da Vinci

Description of example of good practice in modular education and vocational training

*** Aims and objectives**

Objectives of learndirect

Learndirect aims to reach those who do not participate in traditional form of learning and possess few or no skills and qualifications. It also aims to equip people with the skills they need for employability, thereby strengthening the skills of the workforce and increasing productivity. Ufi set out objectives in 2002 for learn direct. They include:

- **learndirect** will be a nationally recognised and relevant brand in the learning market synonymous with widening and increasing participation in learning in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- **learndirect** will be the vocational e-learning choice for the workforce and for individual citizens in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- **learndirect's** pledge will not only satisfy learners but also exceed expectations.
- **learndirect** will take a lead in vocational e-learning through the use of innovative and appropriate ICT solutions for all learners. (Ufi Strategic Plan)

The core mission of the Scottish University for Industry is to support and encourage the development of a more competitive economy and a more inclusive society through education and training. (SUfi mission)

*** Implementation (programmes, methods, measures and actions)**

Ufi is fully operational in the form of learndirect

*** Scope or level: national, regional, local**

National, regional. Learndirect centres are located in all parts of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In addition to on-line access to training modules and courses, individuals can find a face to face training centre near to their home. A user friendly on-line portal helps individuals to locate a training centre offering qualifications in their desired area, in a close proximity from their home.

*** Partners involved (in the design, implementation and evaluation of the policy)**

Design phase	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ufi University for Industry comprising Learndirect England, Wales, and Northern Ireland 2. SUfi Scottish University for Industry comprising learndirect Scotland
Implementation phase	As above
Evaluation phase	As above

*** Target Group(s)**

Educational institutions of vocational education and training (vocational schools, continuing education centres, practice education centres, training institutions, universities and polytechnic, scientific institutes etc.)

Useful Contacts:

<http://www.learndirect.co.uk> Telephone: 00 44 8000 150 450

Content Development Support:

<http://www.ufi.com/cds> This includes the lists of all specifications for developing training material and is intended for training providers

<http://www.learndirectscotland.com> Telephone: 00 44 8081 009 000

<http://www.scottishufi.co.uk>