



**EUROPEAN
CIVIC
ACADEMY**

Workshop on Building inclusive and cohesive societies through education

8 October 2016 - 17h00-19h00

European Civic Academy

La Rochelle, France

Introduction

In today's education system, precedence is given to development of skills for jobs in order to address "skills mismatches" and facilitate the access to labour market. However, learning serves much wider purpose - acquiring life skills, among others, democratic attitudes and social, civic and intercultural competences, is a prerequisite to navigate through the today's fast-changing and complex world. This implies building capacity to think critically and creatively, and making informed and adequate decisions. The transformative power of education plays a major role in building democratic societies. This workshop aims at sharing good examples of work dedicated to civic empowerment through education and learning in Europe and in the world, and to enable discussion on how CSOs can best steer the process of building inclusive and cohesive societies through education.

Participants and speakers

The workshop is open to all European Civic Academy participants and will engage interactively participants on a number of key issues in addition to expert presentations.

Moderation: Mr Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR

Contributors: Ms Sahra Ryklief, General Secretary of IFWEA, International Federation of Workers' Education Associations

Ms Brikena Xhomaqi, Director - Lifelong Learning Platform

Ms Réka Salamon, President - European Students' Forum - AEGEE

Content:

The workshop will address the following questions:

- What are the main challenges in achieving a truly inclusive society?
- What are the life skills necessary to promote active participation in society: claiming and exercising democratic rights, responsibilities and freedoms?
- How can the current educational practices make a change?



LEARNING TO LEARN:

HOW YOU CAN COMBINE NFIL WITH FORMAL LEARNING?

Volunteering and NFIL is usually portrayed as something that gives you **"extra" knowledge** adding to formal learning. The different ways of learning have to adapt more to each other and focus on the **most important factors** when it comes to the personal development of any student or any volunteer:

IN NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING:

Soft-skills development is an essential part of volunteering and usually stands firm as the practical knowledge NFIL offers to gain on various fields...

Making learning accessible to various target groups regardless of age or social background. Education should be a universal right for all citizens in modern societies...

Knowledge should be transferable which widens the variety of learning perspectives. NFIL volunteers often become trainers of others themselves...

Language has an unimaginable impact on the learning experience and being exposed to and learning from different cultural realities...

IN FORMAL LEARNING:

...implementing the theoretical knowledge your university provides you with.

...and while universities are more and more open to students from various backgrounds, NFIL can include all marginalised groups.

...similarly to their university professors, they are encouraged to provide knowledge to others and have an open and critical mind.

...and while learning foreign languages is included in most curricula, volunteering and mobility are the practical implementation of this gained knowledge.

Guidelines for Recognition - European Advanced Tool

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