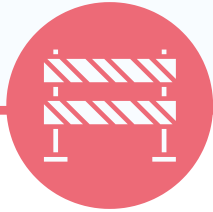# ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON OUTREACH AND ACCESS: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Support for learners during COVID-19

BARRIERS

Bandwith, etc
Funding
Engagement of learners (time pressures etc)
Moving between sectors (eg non-formal to formal)
Reaching out to people with very low basic skills

EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT

Learners as Leaders (peer mentoring, celebrating learners etc)
Weekly webinars to support and build the capacity of tutors online
journals
Postcards
Social and learning connection via mobile phones
Very flexible guidance
Self-empowerment
Move from specific target groups to the general public

Establishing partnerships to improve outreach during COVID-19

PROMOTION OF YOUR WORK

Traditional and social media
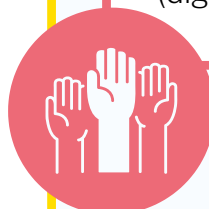Awards, conference, events (now online)

SUGGESTIONS

ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND CLEAR AIMS

Partnerships can increase participation (digital skills, social gatherings, etc.)

COMMUNITY-BASED COOPERATION

Engage associations and providers that already work in the context
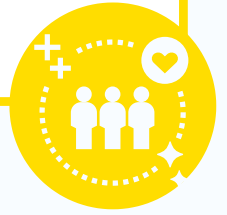Involve self-organised groups

PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF YOUR WORK

Collaborative evaluation

RECOGNINZE THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP!

CHALLENGES

COMPETITION VS COLLABORATION

Funding system can hinder or foster cooperation among providers

... DURING COVID-19

RISK OF BECOMING MORE FOCUSED ON INTERNAL / ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES

Lack of time to look outwardly and engage
Lack of funding
Lack of human resources
More demands

LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHANCES OF PARTNERSHIPS

FEWER OPPORTUNITIES TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACTS

Are we still a community? Festivals of learning during COVID-19

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook and Twitter are essential for successful campaigning these days (L&W)

WEB-BASED ENGAGEMENT

Websites are a great tool for interactive and more accessible modes of ALE

COOPERATION IS KEY!

PARTNERS

partners (other adult learning associations & providers), but also partners from different fields and sectors are key

COOPERATION

Festivals are a great opportunity to enhance cooperation at the local level

NETWORKS

Established networks of coordinators are the basis of successful learning festivals & communities

RAISE THE VOICE OF YOUR PARTICIPANTS

awards of recognition can enhance outreach in different groups

ACCEPT UNCERTAINTY

Adapt approaches and never give up. Flexibility is the key and limits enhance creativity and cooperation.

BEST PRACTICE

Preregistration, smaller groups, more outdoor locations, more online (recorded videos), safety measures need to be transparent, creating a red thread to connect different locations, recordings are available for further distribution

TWITTER WORTHY

News outlets reported to ACS: "Where were you in May - we needed you with positive news and inspiring stories!"

Against the isolation of older learners

DEVELOP REPLACEMENT OFFERS FOR THE ELDERLY AFFECTED

Keep in mind that online activities are not always possible!

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Thoroughly analyse where the actual needs of each target group are and develop respective programmes to meet those specific needs.

LOOK FURTHER INTO THE NEEDS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED LEARNERS IN TIMES OF COVID-19.

Institutionalized learners have vastly different needs compared to other groups of learners. They are highly dependent on the institution they are being taken care of, the technical equipment available, as well as the learning opportunities being offered within the institution.

ADVOCATE MORE FUNDING FOR DIGITAL SKILLS

One of the main barriers to increased participation on ICT based training programmes, along with technical problems, is their low level of digital skills. The acquisition of these skills is often most successful in the format of the face-to-face education.
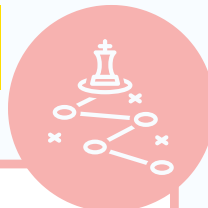
THE POWER OF INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

To overcome social exclusion, increase the motivation for participation and improve the effectiveness of training, expand the range of participants according to age and create intergenerational training groups
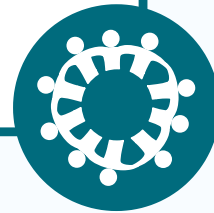
Building a targeted outreach strategy

SUGGESTIONS

OUTREACH SHOULD INCLUDE AN INTERNAL STRATEGY

It is key to analyse your own practice, not only the target groups and the barriers they are facing.

WE SHOULD BE READY TO CHANGE OUR PRACTICES AND BELIEVES TO REACH OUT TO POTENTIAL LEARNERS

Systematic planning!

FREE AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC
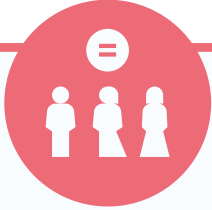
BUILD TRUST, EQUAL PARTICIPATION, AND DIALOGUE

Inside and outside the learning centre!

PEER SUPPORT

CREATE A SECURE SPACE

Where the majority can feel that their emotional and sociocultural needs/wishes are taken into account

COVID-19 CHALLENGES

DIGITAL DIVIDE

Unsolved :-(

Digital exclusion is a reality

CHALLENGES

IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Access - not just to learning but also to healthcare, welfare services...

INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITATIONS

THE OVERALL PICTURE IS POSITIVE - OR IS IT?

The overall picture might be positive (43% of adults took up learning in the UK during the pandemic) but a lot of groups are missing out
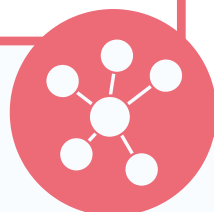
LEARNING SPACES NEED TO FEEL SAFE

WHO'S MISSING OUT?

Inmates, the elderly, low income groups...

OPPORTUNITIES

LOW DIGITAL SKILLS

Especially among some target groups, e.g. the elderly

OPPORTUNITY TO REACH PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS

NEW NETWORKS ARE BEING CREATED

SOCIAL MEDIA AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTREACH (AND LEARNING)

COORDINATION IS KEY

A coordinated approach is needed to get all learners on board

Fostering a city-wide culture of learning

CONCLUSIONS

IT'S TIME TO ACT!

The need for citizenship education is urgent especially in times of crisis like the one we are facing (Covid-19) and the ones that are going to come.

COOPERATION AND CO-CREATION ARE KEY

The example of the City of Larissa shows how a learning culture may be cultivated among citizens and how cooperation, co-creation and effective use of resources may add to develop a shared understanding of lifelong learning and democracy.

THE POWER OF THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL

Initiatives undertaken at a local level are crucial to alter the fallacies related to the notions of participation, active engagement, learning, teaching and education.
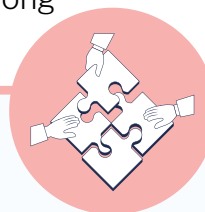
RECOMMENDATIONS

TOWARDS DECENTRALIZATION

More political support and more funding should be given to local initiatives at the level of municipalities.