

Fostering a city-wide culture of learning

The case of Larissa-Learning city



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The case of Larissa – Learning city

Challenges:

- Austerity policies,
- Increase of vulnerable groups,
- Young people - The highest unemployment rates in the EU (40.4% in March 2019) - Brain drain



Building a Learning City: the case of Larissa

Since 2015 Larissa – Learning City, as a member of the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities, is promoting actions based on the humanitarian principles of Lifelong Learning. Our main aim is to foster the dialogue between city stakeholders and citizens, encourage partnerships, critical thinking and active citizenship

The City Council promotes opportunities for learning, education and participation in everyday activities..

- Accessible for all citizens (free charge for vulnerable groups)
- “Citizens’ University of Larissa”



Building a Learning City: the case of Larissa Innovative projects



1. Pinios River Festival
2. “Summer Camp in the City”
3. Creativity Occupational Centres
4. Creativity Centres for disabled
5. White Taxi – Free transportation project



Citizens' University of Larissa

EAEA's Grundtvig Award 2020 for good practices on outreach and access in adult education.

- ✓ *Parents' Schools*
- ✓ *Education Through Art*
- ✓ *language courses for refugees and immigrants*
- ✓ *disability awareness program for municipal councilors and services*
- ✓ *computer courses for the third age*
- ✓ *Actions for Roma social inclusion*

The new reality because of Covid 19

- online round tables to discuss this new reality, the consequences in fields such as public health, social outcomes, economy, and education
- an educational cycle to support local teachers in the use of distance learning methods, online lessons for parents and online health programs
- The operation of innovative Municipal Youth Council
- the educational programs for new students in Municipall hall with the participation of 500 students in one year

A satisfying educational framework, a well-structured educational program or some organized classrooms are not enough...

“I dream because I aim high: to contribute in the creation of a free citizen, as Aristoteles envisioned. Citizenship requires discipline and freedom. A process that never ends and that we must always strive for. Every democratic education is a citizenship education. Responsible, honest, consistent and therefore a happy citizen!”

Paulo Freire, “Ten letters to those who dare to teach”



Thank you for your attention!

