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YAMNFL2

Youth Ambassadors of
Non Formal Learning

Booklet N°1

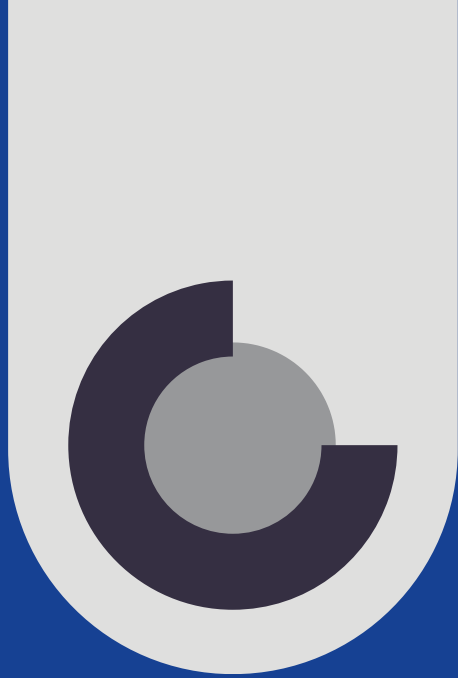


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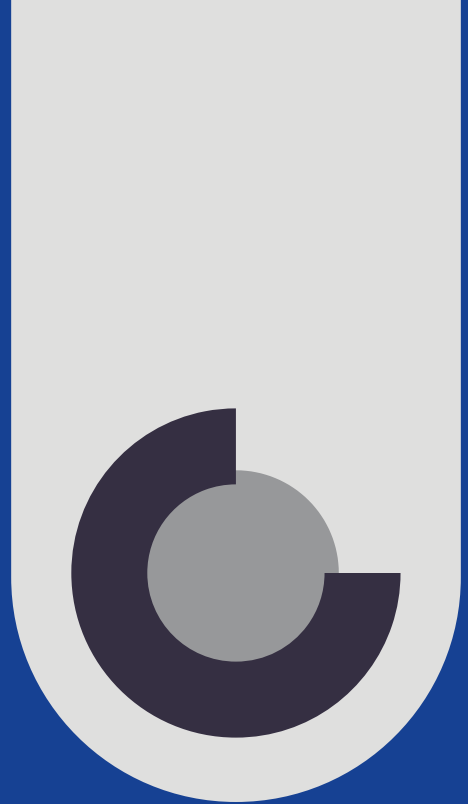
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Project Overview

The project “Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning – phase 2” / **YAMNFL2** is a continuation of the successfully implemented “Youth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning” project implemented in a period 11/2020-05/2022, approved by the ERASMUS-YOUTH-2019-CB program.

Phase 2 involves 6 partners and 6 associate partners from the program and WB countries, which aims to build the capacities of youth through participation in non-formal education activities and the ability to recognize competencies gained outside the formal educational environment, to enhance the employability of youth through innovative methodology.





About the **Booklet**

The Booklet of Competencies is a tool that collects good practices and useful information regarding youth employment through non-formal education.

You will find interesting insights about the situation of youth employment in the consortium countries.

You will also have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of young people, youth workers, and stakeholders about non-formal education.

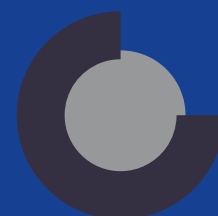
Moreover, you will be updated on the development of our project, YAMNFL2.



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Booklet of Competencies. In this edition, you will have the opportunity to be introduced to non-formal education (NFE) and its crucial role in youth employment. We will explore the competencies needed to succeed in the modern labor market, providing you with valuable insights and practical information.

This booklet serves as a comprehensive resource for anyone interested in leveraging non-formal education to enhance youth employment and build essential skills for the future.



Non-Formal Learning

Non-formal learning (NFE) refers to organized educational activities outside the formal education system, aimed at specific learning objectives and often characterized by a voluntary, flexible, and learner-centered approach. It includes a wide range of activities such as workshops, community education, online courses, and youth work, designed to develop skills and competences that are directly applicable to real-world situations.



The concept of NFE is particularly relevant in today's rapidly changing world, where the ability to adapt and learn continuously is crucial for personal and professional success.



Youth Work and **Lifelong Learning**

Non-formal learning plays a crucial role in youth work, offering young people opportunities to acquire valuable skills and competences in a supportive and engaging environment.

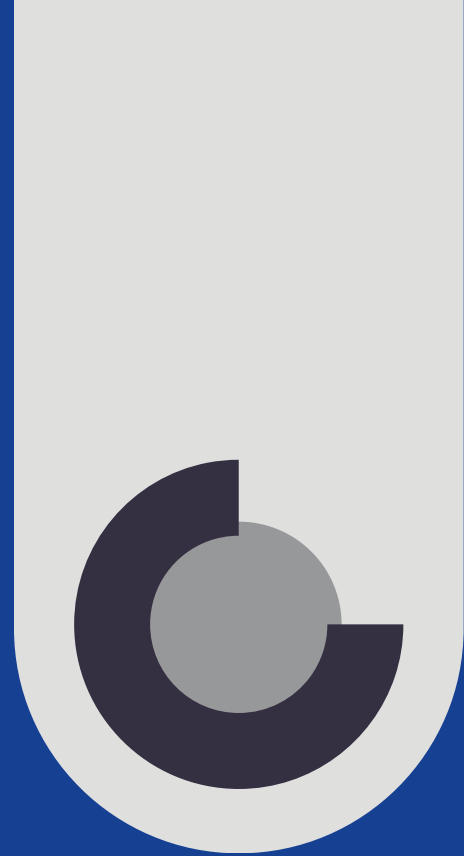
Youth work, which encompasses a variety of activities such as leisure, sports, and community service, often relies on NFE methods to address the diverse needs and interests of young people. These activities not only enhance personal and social development but also prepare young people for the challenges of the modern labor market.



NFE is an integral part of lifelong learning, a concept that emphasizes the continuous development of skills and knowledge throughout an individual's life.

The European Commission's framework on key competences for lifelong learning highlights the importance of developing a broad set of skills, including digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving, which are essential for personal fulfillment, employability, and active citizenship.

NFE provides a versatile and inclusive approach to education, making it accessible to learners of all ages and backgrounds.



Modern Education System

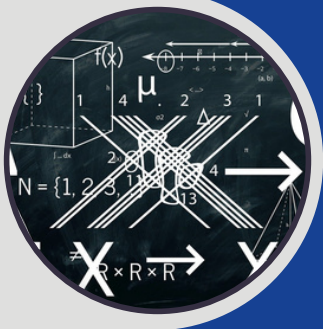
The recognition of NFE as a vital component of modern education systems reflects the need to move beyond traditional classroom-based learning. In the 21st century, education must cater to diverse learning styles and provide opportunities for experiential, collaborative, and self-directed learning.



The principles of NFE prioritize practical, hands-on experiences and active participation in the learning process. By integrating NFE into mainstream education, policymakers and educators can create more holistic and responsive education systems that better prepare learners for the complexities of modern life and work.



Types of Learning



Formal Learning

This takes place in educational institutions such as schools, colleges, and universities, following a structured curriculum leading to certification.



Non-Formal Learning

Organized educational activities that occur outside the formal system, characterized by their flexibility and learner-centered approach, often without leading to certification.



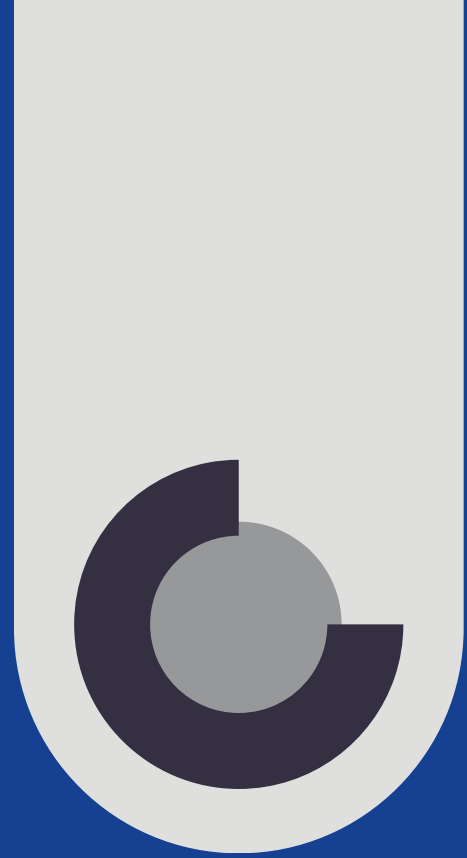
Informal Learning

Learning that occurs naturally through daily activities and interactions, such as through work, family, and leisure, without any structured plan or curriculum.

Non-formal learning (NFE) refers to any organized educational activity that occurs outside the formal education system. Unlike formal education, which is typically structured and curriculum-based, NFE is characterized by its flexibility, learner-centered approach, and practical application.

The concept of NFE gained prominence in the 1970s with the work of Coombs and Ahmed, who defined it as "any organized, systematic educational activity carried on outside the framework of the formal system to provide selected types of learning to particular subgroups in the population, adults as well as children."

John Dewey's educational philosophy also provides a foundational understanding of NFE. Dewey emphasized the importance of experiential learning, describing education as the continuous reconstruction of experience and the process of living rather than preparation for future living. This aligns closely with the principles of NFE, which prioritize practical, hands-on experiences and active engagement in the learning process.



Principles of Non-Formal Learning



Volunteering based

Participation in NFE is typically voluntary, driven by the learner's interests and needs. This encourages higher engagement and motivation.



Learner-Centered Approach

NFE prioritizes the needs, experiences, and learning styles of the individual, allowing for personalized and adaptive learning experiences.



Flexibility and Inclusivity

Unlike formal education, NFE is flexible in terms of structure, timing, and content, enabling it to respond quickly to changing needs and contexts. NFE aims to be inclusive, providing learning opportunities for all individuals regardless of their background, age, or previous educational experiences.



Practical Application

Emphasizes the application of knowledge and skills in real-world situations, making learning relevant and immediately useful.



Competencies for the Modern Labor --- Market

Digital and Technological Skills

In today's digital age, technological proficiency is a fundamental requirement for the modern labor market. Digital competence involves the confident and critical use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for work, leisure, and communication. It includes skills such as coding, data analysis, digital content creation, and cybersecurity awareness. With the rapid advancement of technology, individuals must continuously update their digital skills to remain competitive and effective in their roles.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

The ability to think critically and solve complex problems is highly valued in the modern workforce. Critical thinking involves analyzing information objectively, evaluating different perspectives, and making reasoned decisions. Problem-solving skills enable individuals to identify issues, develop solutions, and implement them effectively. These competencies are essential across all industries, as they facilitate innovation and efficient decision-making in dynamic and unpredictable environments.

Adaptability and Continuous Learning

Adaptability and a commitment to continuous learning are essential traits for success in the rapidly changing modern labor market. Adaptability involves being open to change, learning new skills, and adjusting to new environments and challenges. Continuous learning emphasizes the importance of ongoing education and professional development. By embracing lifelong learning, individuals can stay relevant and competitive in their careers, responding effectively to new opportunities and challenges.

Communication and Teamwork

Effective communication and the ability to work collaboratively in teams are crucial competencies for the modern labor market. Communication skills encompass both verbal and written communication, including the ability to present ideas clearly, negotiate, and resolve conflicts. Teamwork involves collaborating with others to achieve common goals, leveraging diverse perspectives and skills. In an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, strong communication and teamwork abilities enhance productivity and drive success.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The ability to think critically and solve complex problems is highly valued in the modern workforce. Critical thinking involves analyzing information objectively, evaluating different perspectives, and making reasoned decisions. Problem-solving skills enable individuals to identify issues, develop solutions, and implement them effectively. These competencies are essential across all industries, as they facilitate innovation and efficient decision-making in dynamic and unpredictable environments.

Tools and Resources for Implementing NFE



Erasmus+ Programme



Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges and Trainings bring together groups of young people from different countries to live and work together for up to 21 days. These exchanges promote intercultural learning and help participants develop skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

European Solidarity Corps



Solidarity Projects: Young people can create and implement solidarity projects that address challenges in their local communities. These projects, which can last from 2 to 12 months, help participants develop leadership, project management, and social entrepreneurship skills. For instance, a group of young people might organize a campaign to promote mental health awareness in their community.

Volunteering Activities: The European Solidarity Corps provides opportunities for young people to volunteer for projects across Europe, ranging from social inclusion to environmental protection. Volunteering activities help participants gain practical experience and develop a sense of European citizenship.

European Youth Portal



The European Youth Portal offers information on learning opportunities, volunteering, and youth policies across Europe. It includes a database of funding opportunities, training courses, and events. Youth workers and young people can use the portal to find relevant resources and stay updated on the latest developments in the field of youth work.

Youth Pass

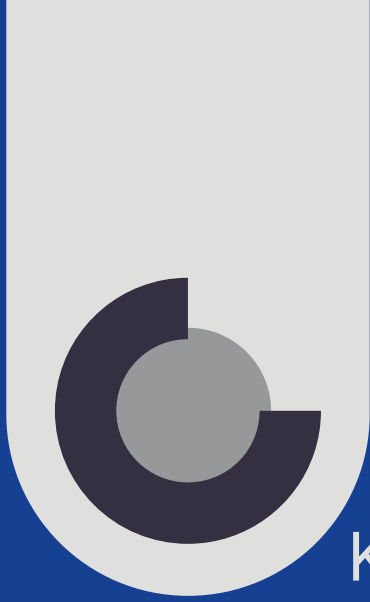


Youthpass is a tool for participants of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps projects to document and reflect on their learning experiences. It helps young people articulate the skills and competences they have gained, which can be valuable for their future education and employment.

Salto - YOUTH Training Resource Center



The SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre offers various tools and resources to support the professional development of youth workers. These include training courses, seminars, and workshops on topics such as inclusion, participation, and intercultural competence. For instance, a youth worker might attend a SALTO seminar on social inclusion to learn new strategies for engaging marginalized youth.



Project Activities

Kick Off Meeting in Tirana

On 8 and 9 February 2024, we held our kick-off meeting in Tirana, Albania, bringing together all the representatives of the consortium. This meeting marked the official start of our journey. The main outcome of the kick-off meeting was the successful launch of Phase 2 of the YAMNFL project setting the stage for the next two years of activities and collaborations.



Contats



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YAMNFL2
Youth Ambassadors of
Non Formal Learning



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