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IO1.A2: Collection of Good Practices

Foundation - The Intergenerational Volunteer Center

Project nº: 2020-1-PT01-KA204-078631

Foundation - The Intergenerational Volunteer Center

A short presentation of the project:

Self-organized group of older women who are committed to organizing and attending adult education courses. Group is open for everyone and most of them are learners and facilitators as within the group culture there is no strict role division. Programs within the group include intergenerational cooperation, creative art workshops, sport sessions, informatics lectures and workshops with the support of adult educators.

The goal is to connect several generations by implementing the principles of lifelong learning and development, helping social and intellectual development, encouraging activism, volunteerism and inclusion of the elderly, the disabled and children. Group respects diversity, non-violent communication, everyone in the role of leader is and can propose new activities and contribute to the programme. The group is led by a volunteer team with about 37 constantly active members organising around 400 events during the year.

The group is also connected with other local and national organisations such as Who Builds the City and Association Coalition for Solidarity Economy Development, local municipalities and uses open public spaces for activities and events.

In 2017 the group established Foundation - The Intergenerational Volunteer Center as a non-profit, non-governmental, humanitarian foundation.

Aspects that make this practice a good example of safe learning space:

This specific group is an interesting example of how a self established and organized group can provide non hierarchical participation among its members. This non hierarchical aspect is especially important as it provides participants equal contribution to the programme as well as the future development. Solidarity among the members and inclusion of different ages provides the safe space for members, as well as learning opportunities that foster cooperation and individual and collective growth.

The group is the place for participants to feel a shared collective living and learning atmosphere. That aspect is especially important in connection to safe space as it gives the emphasis on collective bodies and community development that provide a sense of belonging and mutual understanding. Self organisation of events that include local communities provide an additional space for groups' self reflection for future

development and contribute to strengthening the local community potential, supporting other local organisation and initiatives.

Exploring the cross-border transferability:

Self-organizing groups can be found in different contexts, and their contribution to the development of local communities is immeasurable. One of the most important reasons is that it increases civic inclusion and participation. On the other hand, from the inside, group cohesion encourages solidarity and non-hierarchical structure affects the creation of safe spaces through learning and nurturing healthy lifestyles in adulthood / old age. This specific aspect can be gained in various diverse communities as long as it serves directly to the group members and recognizes their collective body of work as the most important aspect of group's development.

Contacts and links for further reading:

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