

Workshop: „ My key to the future”

Date, Time: Thursday, 31.03.2011, 10:30 – 12:30 and 14:15 – 16:15

Trainer: Jo Peeters, freelance trainer, Steunpunt Scouting Gelderland, The Netherlands

Workshop content/theme

Recognition of non formal learning in voluntary work

Aims

To make the participants aware of the fact that doing voluntary work is a rich learning environment, and that it can be useful to translate the “volunteer competences” to the labour market or to formal education.

Method(s)/Approach

- Introduction of the workshop: aims and programme (10 min.)
- A young volunteer at work (20 min.)
I show a short movie: we see a girl leading a group of children and playing games with them. First I show the whole movie (about 3 min.), then I show it again but stop it after every scene. After every scene the participants write down the competences that they see. I do not use the word “competences”, but ask: what is she good in. This makes people aware of the competences you can develop as a volunteer.
- My voluntary work (15 min.)
In small groups (students and teachers separated) the participants tell each other what kind of volunteer work they are doing, have done, or would like to do. The starting question for this is: How would a short movie about your volunteer work look like? What would we see you doing? Take one scene from your movie, and try to describe or draw it. With this exercise, we take the step from the movie we have seen to the own reality.
- What do I (or did I) learn from my volunteer work (15 min.)
Every group gets a set of coloured cards with short descriptions of competences. They can choose three cards with competences that are connected to their volunteer work. They can also give two cards to one of the group members (so in the step before the participants have to listen very carefully to each other!).
- Connecting volunteer work with education and/or with the labour market (20 min.)
So now every individual has 5 cards: 3 chosen by himself/herself, and 2 given to him/her by another group member. He/she writes the 5 competences on a big piece of paper, and sticks this to the wall (or puts it on the floor). Then everyone goes around the room, and writes on these pieces of paper for what kind of education/profession these competences are useful.
- How to get recognition for my competences (15 min.)
We do this exercise in 2 groups: 1 group of students, one group of teachers. The students write down 10 suggestions how the teachers can recognise the student's competences. The teachers write down 10 ways how they think they can do this. The lists are presented to each other, and a common rating is made.
- Tools for recognition (15 min.)
The workshop leader presents tools that are available to support the recognition process: different games that can be used, portfolio's for youth leaders, portfolio's for other kinds of volunteer work, a.s.o.
- Evaluation and closing of the workshop (10 min.)

Further tips, sources, resource material or links

www.cev.be (search for report of the MOVE-project)

www.salto-youth.net (search for report "Bridges for recognition")

www.youthforum.org (search for "The sunshine report on non formal education")

I offer presentations and workshops on recognition of non formal learning/recognition of competences in voluntary work. The content of the presentation/workshop is based on activities and projects we have done in this field since 2004, both on national and international level, but will always be adapted to the situation, the target group, and the individual wishes.

Possible subjects: introduction: what are competences, what is non formal learning, what is recognition; introduction of tools / games / methods for recognition; developments on European level; recognition on personal level; recognition on organizational level; how to start the recognition process; the place of recognition in the policy of a voluntary organization; implementing competence based education in the educational strategy of the voluntary organization.



