

European Input in Sustainable Education and Learning (EISEL) February 2018 – November 2019 Project Summary



Learn for Life (LFL) is the national coordinator of the Dutch Learning Festival since 2012. The organization is permanently innovating the Festival in order to reach better the key objectives of this event: the promotion of life long learning for adults for whom learning is not obvious and the creation of sustainable educational partnerships. In this matter, LFL works closely together with Learning & Work and CINOP. Recent policy developments form the basis of this application, in particular the decision to expand the Festival over the next two years, towards strong regional educational partnerships who organize Festival activities and establish strategic links also beyond the Festival. The national coordination by LFL will be designed in a new way, in consultation with the regional and national strategic partners. In addition, the Foundation will continue her efforts to strengthen the support for non-formal education at the national (policy) level. We are looking for new ways to influence, inside and outside the framework of the Festival.

Through EISEL, the foundation aims to acquire expertise from European countries in the field of regional strategic partnerships, including: key conditions for a sustainable partnership, organization of cooperation at management level and at the level of concrete work practices, expected bottlenecks and how to handle these. In addition, LFL wants to gain expertise to better strengthen the position of (non-formal) adult education, bringing results of (non-formal) adult education to the spotlight. LFL wants to learn from good practices about policy influencing and recognition & validation of non-formal learning.

The expertise gained by employees through EISEL has a dual purpose: renewal of the Festival through the formation of sustainable regional strategic partnerships and strengthening the position and support of non-formal education at national level (due to greater visibility of work practice and greater clarity about the contribution of adult education to central 21st century issues). Via EISEL, the participants will reinforce relevant competencies, which will enable them to work better on these two goals. In the end, this should lead to reach adults for who learning is not obvious better in the region and should lead to improvement of the conditions to participate in lifelong learning for employment, social inclusion and personal growth.

Based on previous international cooperation, we know that we will find relevant expertise in Ireland, Slovenia, Scotland and a fourth country. We will also collect relevant expertise at the annual meetings of EAEA and EBSN.

Staff, board members and volunteers will take part in EISEL. A large number of our volunteers work in regional partner organizations, such as learning & work offices, libraries and ROCs. They are involved in LFL through the Festival Team. They have in depth insight in lifelong learning issues and reaching specific target groups. They have skills in building and maintaining relational networks and general campaign skills and organizational talent.

During 2018-2019, job shadow visits will take place by 16 persons. In addition, 4 persons (4x1) will participate in the annual conferences of EAEA and EBSN. During the three-day job shadow visits, the staff will learn on-the-spot from good regional practices and from presentations and structured conversations with festival organizers, ambassadors, companies, politicians and other stakeholders. At the umbrella organizations, they also will learn from innovative projects and gain expertise in current policy issues in adult education.

During the preparation period, personal learning objectives and institutional goals will be defined in a learning agreement. The progress of EISEL is monitored through a monitoring and evaluation document. For the participants, the whole project will provide a rich learning process. They get concrete instruments for their daily practice. The acquired expertise will lead to more successful regional partnerships where all relevant partners cooperate in a sustainable way for the benefit of adult learners with a distance to lifelong learning.

Through EIFEL, LFL also wants to contribute to the implementation of a number of European and national policy goals, namely: new challenges in a changing world and demonstrate that learning not only takes place at school (Europe 2020 Strategy), making lifelong learning and mobility a reality, creating creative and innovative learning surroundings and promote social cohesion, active citizenship and equal rights for everybody (European Agenda for Adult Learning and the Dutch SER document Making Work of Education).

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