

Experiences of the Global Learning City Programme in Pécs, Hungary from 2017 to 2019 – Choices and Limitations

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Summary:

The Learning City-Region Forum and its Learning Festival Programme has got a specific aim to provide programmes to each and all citizens of Pécs wanting to participate learning activities offered by institutions and organisations having enrolled to the programme with specific learning-focused activities offered to participants.

Since the Learning Festival is focused to learning communities and community learning, it is based on the general principle of the Learning City-Region Forum and, also, of the Learning Festival Programme to demonstrate equal access to the programmes of the Festival around lifelong learning.

The City of Pécs, having to realise the support and concerns towards disabled populations, has demonstrated its alliance with UIL in the programme of Global Learning Cities to promote both:

- Learning activities connected to specific topics in accordance with the needs of its citizens and their learning communities, and
- collaborative actions of institutions and organisations having direct goals to raise participation and performance in lifelong learning based on intergenerational partnerships.

In this regard, the Learning Festivals of Pécs are generally organised around thematic issues with a general consideration that disabled learners/groups of disabled learners have to be given attention and care.

In this presentation it will also be demonstrated that the model of Learning Festival has allowed the Municipality of Pécs to develop collaborations amongst local and regional learning providers with care and attention to vulnerable social groups, like young adults, roma people, elderly, people with limited basic skills or having learning difficulties may result in difficulties to find jobs, decent roles in the society through integration. This reality explains that disability may indicate a learning difficulty, or low social status to result in limited or missing access to quality education, one specific goal of UN Agenda 2030 for SDGs.

Not only the thematic issues of the Learning Festival, but also community focused principles reflect goals like:

- inclusive approaches around learning;
- concerns to SDGs and to other UNESCO goals;
- recognition of learning needs of special groups in education and lifelong learning;
- making use of culture and arts as agents of quality learning for equality and equity;
- intergenerational learning;
- Intercultural and antidiscriminative focuses;
- voluntary actions for participatory learning;
- and solidarity.

Since Pécs is a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious community, it is providing a ground for social care , therefore, the presentation will provide some examples of actions/programmes of the Festival to make inclusive programmes, for example, for young generations and senior citizens through active participatory learning.

The presentation will demonstrate that the Municipality of Pécs, together with its partner organisations/institutions develop the Learning City-Region Forum and, more precisely, the Learning Festival as its core programme in accordance with the protection of the right to learning and education through prohibiting any form of discrimination.

The topics of the Festival so far:

2017

- Culture and arts;
- Environment, green Pécs;
- Knowledge transfer and skills development.

2018

- Environmentally conscious? Sustainable environment in and around Pécs
- Place and Values – Cultural Heritage of Pécs;
- Is it easier to do thing together? Intergenerational learnings and partnerships for skills development.

2019

- Culture and Arts bring you closer to Learning – Learning through Music, Dance and Performative Arts;
- Learning through Move, Sport for Health;
- Learning Environment – Learning in Environment.

Challenges we face over developing and implementing lifelong learning through learning city formations are: non-participation, low levels of collaborative manners, bad experience in learning especially in school-age; Lack of time available to be devoted to learning, disabilities to reach out for/participate programmes of interest amongst people of vulnerable groups.

Lifelong learning focuses have generated national and local resources have helped through special grants for projects to address the learning needs of persons with disabilities and to promote collaborative actions to help participatory learning be realised in the development of the learning city.

They are mainly cultural, art, educational institutions and civic, voluntary organisations from sectors of education, art, culture, environmental protection, sport, religion who are participating in the planning and implementation of lifelong learning through learning city formations and generate attention with care to disabled individuals and their communities.

The presentation itself will provide some key aspect on those above focuses.

Key reference to Pécs (HUN) as a Global Learning City: <http://uil.unesco.org/city/pecs>