

**Name or title of the recognition tool/practice:**

**Here2Stay**

**Developed by:**

Athanasios Krezios, Kids in Action

**Short description:**

The publication called 'Here2Stay – A handbook on non-formal learning and its social recognition', provides an excellent overview of conceptual and policy developments in relation to non-formal learning. In its second part, it publishes the outcomes of a research on the views of Greek youth at learning possibilities outside of school. The second tool resulted from the project called 'My Learning' a documentary movie to promote the value of non-formal learning.

**Type of the tool/practice:**

Publication/Handbook, Video/Film

**Recognition dimensions addressed by the tool/practices:**

Self-recognition, Social recognition

**Level of influence of your tool/practice:**

Local/Regional, International

**Target group(s) for the tool/practice:**

Youth leaders/Youth workers, with special attention to novices. 'Recognition' workers; those working on recognition and looking for backing up. Young people, although here we need to put the distinction between the publication/handbook (which is not easy to grasp unless the young person already has an experience in international youth work) and the documentary (which can be seen by everyone).

**Background and the context of development of the tool/practice:**

It all started, after Athanasios Krezios participated in the '1<sup>st</sup> Youthpass Training Course' which took place in Austria, December 2006, hosted by its National Agency of the then 'Youth Programme'.

"A very inspiring event, needless to say. The whole Youthpass thing was completely new and it took my attention. It locked very well with my progressive understanding of 'education' (based on outputs not inputs, assessing oneself by oneself, dialogical rather than transmissional and 'ex cathedra', etc.). Getting back from the course, it wasn't that hard to create a group of young people with an interest in recognition. But to be precise, they were not that interested in recognition; they were interested in sense-making and the application of the competences they had acquired after their participation in international youth work projects and a 'language' to make others appreciate it!"

**Development process:**

The project 'Here2Stay' was conducted in the period from December 2006 until June 2007. It had several phases:

1. Training phase. The task force was trained in issues related to non-formal learning and its recognition at the European level.

2. Research preparation phase. The task force prepared questions and developed activities for Focus Groups, to be used with young people, investigating their understanding of non-formal learning.
3. Research conduction phase. The task force made use of different mediums (hand out questionnaires, project's web site poll, online questionnaires) with which 1000 (ideally) young people were reached (the team had decided that 500 responses would be a sufficient number for the research to go on). Parallel to that the task force ran Focus Group activities with young people that had at least 1 experience in participating in a European youth mobility programme.
4. Research evaluation phase. The task force prepared the statistic presentation and analysis of the outcomes of the research.
5. Publication phase. The task force explored all the possibilities for publication of the results and worked on the publications.
6. Final training phase. To master the task force's knowledge and skills on Youthpass and recognition.

**Objectives:**

To increase awareness of and appreciation for learning outcomes of non-formal learning processes, by the actors (young people, youth workers/trainers) and society in general; in Greece but also at the European level.

**Description of the tool:***Publication/handbook.*

The publication called 'Here2Stay – A handbook on non-formal learning and its social recognition' has a multifaceted content, the most important aspect being, social recognition of non-formal learning. Inside it you will find a collection (with commentary) of non-formal learning definitions by different institutions as well as, a suggested process to go through when implementing Youthpass during a training course. Last but not least, it includes the outcomes of a research (questionnaires + focus groups) about how Greek young people look at learning possibilities outside of school/university.

*Video documentary 'MyLearning'*

This was an audio-visual research project (participant observation and coaching) and a documentary movie to promote the recognition of non-formal learning.

Synopsis: Romanos, a young Uzbek student of Pontiac Greek origins, decides to go on a one month learning experience abroad. In his everyday life, he is constantly searching to improve himself. During the experience, however, a love affair develops and changes the entire mission into an exploration of how to express feelings.

The outcome of MyLearning is a direct experience. By watching the movie, everyone can immediately enter the world of non-formal learning. Such experiences are dynamic, colourful and intensive, and create plenty of space for the personal and social development of the young person. This learning is followed throughout the movie.

The documentary movie drew upon the findings of the research project and built on the belief that there is something to be valued and used in all manifestations of a young person's life, in non-formal learning educational activities.

**Outcomes, results and impact:**

There has been no systematic and/or broad evaluation taking place, mainly because the project was self-funded in its initial phase (the making of the handbook) and only received 5000 euros from the EYF for the documentary.

Nevertheless, the publication has been used before and during the proceedings of several conferences around the Europe.

Within the NGO, it had created a stream of action towards greater attention and support for our projects' participants' learning and also enabled our regular partners to be acting in similar way.