People-to-People (P2P) Programme Event

2023 EU Year of Skills: Skills for Non-Profits in the Western Balkans and Türkiye

November 21-22, 2023

Tirana, AL

Major Findings, Recommendations, and Ideas for Additional P2P Events and Capacity Building Events in 2024

This document consolidates key findings, recommendations, and future event ideas based on the World Café group work discussions and outcomes on November 22, 2023. There are also some additional activities for consideration. Adjustments to the proposed activities related to the capacity building and P2P events can be made based on specific goals and audience preferences for the events in 2024.

Major Findings

Priority Skills for Non-Profit Sector:

- Project management, fundraising, and digital transformation skills are crucial.
- Advocacy, policy creation, and outreach are fundamental for community engagement.
- Sustainable strategies, social entrepreneurship, and adaptability are highly valued.
- Financial management, leadership, and critical thinking are essential skills.
- Intercultural skills, teamwork, and agile development are also significant.

Cooperation Opportunities:

- Regional and inter-sectoral cooperation is feasible through partnerships.
- Connecting communities, strategic alliances, and joint advocacy efforts are vital.
- Utilizing technology ("Tech for good") to solve social issues.
- Strategic networking and sharing experiences strengthen cooperation.

Good Practices in Training and Skills Development:

- Diverse training methods, online resources, and mentorship programs are effective.
- Competency-based training, sub-granting, and knowledge transfer channels work well.
- Youth-focused programs and skills development initiatives are beneficial.

Advocating Government Investment:

- Aligning with EU/OECD[1] strategies, improving service quality, and involvement capacities are persuasive.
- Collaborating, involving CSOs in decision-making, and showcasing values drive investment.
- Introducing new curricula, advocating for state funds, and MOOCs enhance investment.

Ensuring Quality Assurance and Recognition:

- Collaborative efforts, evaluation mechanisms, and legal frameworks ensure quality.
- Recognizing non-formal learning, validation, and autonomy in the sector are crucial.
- Threats of state control, bureaucratic challenges, and costs hinder recognition.

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[1] The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Home page - OECD

Accreditation and Certification for CSOs:

Pros: Quality assurance, participant certification, and national recognition.

Cons: Bureaucracy, costs, and concerns over competence and necessity.

Improving Inclusivity and Accessibility:

- Skills programs must consider gender, environmental, and socioeconomic sustainability.
- Clear competencies, inclusive instructional design, and diverse expertise enhance inclusivity.
- Accessibility for diverse backgrounds, monitoring, and evaluation are crucial.

Recommendations

1. Program Development:
- Develop programs aligned with priority skills and inclusive practices.
- Offer seminars to encourage NGOs to seek accreditation while simplifying the process.
- Foster collaboration between CSOs, governments, academia, and private sectors.
2. Government Engagement:
- Advocate for government involvement in skills strategies and investment in CSOs.
- Ensure inclusion of CSOs in decision-making and policy development processes.
3. Collaboration and Networking:
- Encourage strategic alliances, cross-border cooperation, and thematic networking.
- Create opportunities for joint advocacy efforts among CSOs regionally.

Ideas for 2024 Events

1. **Strategic Alliance Establishments:** Organize cross-border events focusing on regional interests.
2. **Seminars on Accreditation:** Conduct seminars simplifying accreditation processes.
3. **Skill-Building Workshops:** Offer workshops focusing on priority skills for CSOs.
4. **Collaborative Conferences:** Host joint conferences for collaboration between sectors.
5. **Inclusive Program Reviews:** Organize events to review inclusivity in skills programs.

Additional Considerations:

A. Develop mechanisms for ongoing evaluation and improvement.
B. Focus on building sustainable partnerships and collaboration models.
C. Explore funding opportunities to support inclusive skill development.

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