

Module 13.

LIFELONG INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS ON IMPLEMENTING GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPE

**Course “Gender equality training for decision
makers. Educators and leaders of NGOs”**

Developed in the framework of EC Socrates project
“WO-MEN: Gender Equality Creates democracy”
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Objectives of the module

- Review importance of lifelong learning on gender mainstreaming.
- Discuss European initiatives and projects in the field.
- Promote interception of experiences and synergy of diverse initiatives and European projects on implementing gender equality in Europe.

Introduction

- As one of the priority areas, a **Roadmap for equality between women and men 2006-2010** emphasises eliminating gender stereotypes in society. Striving to combat stereotypes, the Commission obliges to:
 - Support actions to eliminate gender stereotypes in education, culture and on the labour market by promoting gender mainstreaming and specific actions in the ESF, ICT programmes and in EU education and culture programmes, including **EU Lifelong Learning strategy** and the **future Integrated Lifelong Learning programme**.
 - Support awareness-raising campaigns and exchange of good practices in schools and enterprises on non-stereotyped gender roles, and develop dialogue with media to encourage a non-stereotyped portrayal of women and men.

Lifelong learning definition

- Lifelong learning is defined as "all learning activity undertaken throughout life, with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence, within a personal, civic, social and/or employment-related perspective." Lifelong learning is therefore about:
 - Acquiring and updating all kinds of abilities, interests, knowledge and qualifications from the pre-school years to post-retirement. It promotes the development of knowledge and competences that will enable each citizen to adapt to the knowledge-based society and actively participate in all spheres of social and economic life, taking more control of his or her future.
 - Valuing all forms of learning, including: formal learning, such as a degree course followed at university; non-formal learning, such as vocational skills acquired at the workplace; and informal learning, such as inter-generational learning, for example where parents learn to use ICT through their children, or learning how to play an instrument together with friends.

Aims of lifelong learning

- Memorandum of lifelong learning emphasises two equally important **aims for lifelong learning**:
 - promoting active citizenship,
 - promoting employability.
- Although comprehensive and coherent strategies have not yet been developed by the majority of Member States, all recognise that working together in **a variety of partnerships is an essential** means of putting lifelong learning into practice.

European projects on lifelong learning for gender equality

- MENPART: Men and non-formal Education participation and Learning of social Skills.
- Promoting Gender Equality in European Active Citizenship
- OASIS
- GEcel: Civic Education and Learning for Gender Mainstreaming
- European network of the adult education organizations working on women's employment issues
- DELOA: Itinerant workshops for assessment, help, orientation and information on sexual education, equal opportunities and gender equality aimed at rural women
- Political Education and Learning for Gender Mainstreaming Implementation