



#### Good Practices to Promote EU Values

#### **GOOD PRACTICES GUIDE**



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### L. Introduction



The European Union is a political and economic association of 27 European countries working together in various fields to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Founded on the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, the EU seeks to foster cooperation among its members in areas such as trade, foreign policy, security and the environment. Through its common market, the EU facilitates the exchange of goods, services, people and capital between its member states. In addition, it promotes regional development programmes, environmental protection, scientific research and education. The EU also plays an active role in global affairs, advocating multilateralism and diplomacy to address global challenges such as climate change, poverty and international conflicts.

The European Union is founded on a set of core values that guide its policies and decisions. These values are human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights.

Human dignity is the principle that every individual has the right to be treated with respect and consideration. The EU is committed to protecting the dignity of all people and to ensuring that their fundamental rights are respected in all areas of life.

Freedom is another fundamental value for the EU, manifested in freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of association and freedom of movement. The EU actively defends these freedoms as fundamental rights of all its citizens.

Democracy is a central pillar of the EU, based on the principle that power emanates from the people. Citizen participation, political pluralism and respect for human rights are fundamental elements of democracy in the European Union.



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Equality is another key value for the EU, which seeks to ensure equal opportunities and equal treatment for all its citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or beliefs. Combating discrimination and promoting equality are priority objectives for the EU.

The rule of law is a fundamental principle in the EU, ensuring that all decisions and actions are subject to clear and fair laws. Respect for the rule of law is crucial to ensure a fair and transparent system across Europe.

Finally, human rights are a priority for the EU, which works actively to promote and protect fundamental rights in Europe and around the world. The EU upholds universal human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

These values are fundamental to the European Union and are rooted in its founding treaties and legislation. The promotion and protection of these values are an integral part of the EU's commitment to peace, stability and the well-being of its citizens.







The European Union, and each of its seven main institutions, aims to spread the values mentioned above. This is why this project has been designed, not only to share good practices that spread the values of the European Union in our communities, but also to show us the opportunities it offers and to increase the feeling of belonging to the European Union among adult education learners.

This project has been designed in line with the EU horizontal priority "Common values, civic engagement and participation", as according to the 2022 Eurobarometer surveys, almost three quarters would like to know more about their rights as European citizens.

It is important to highlight that the composition of this consortium has been motivated by the suitability of the profile and experience of the different partners. Among the various partners there is a wide range of experience in European projects from very experienced partners such as Ajuntament d'Alzira and Polaris, to companies with less experience such as LEVEL UP and K-GEM, but with great interest in this world and these objectives.

We have also managed to bring together in this project countries such as Spain, a member of the European Union since 1986, a clearly pro-European country; with Italy, a founding country but with more and more doubts about this institution. We also have on the spectrum an organisation from Poland, a country that joined the EU in 2009 with great enthusiasm. And finally, an organisation from Türkiye, a country that is a candidate to join this international organisation.

What most unites the consortium is its work and connection with formal and nonformal adult education, which is why each partner has organised study visits to institutions, associations and organisations in its environment to look for these good practices in adult education so that all partners can learn from them.



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Activities that have been carried out in the project:

- Four study visits focused on the promotion of European values among groups such as unemployed people, participants in vocational training courses, students and beneficiaries of non-formal education.
- Creation of a handbook of good practices to promote learning opportunities offered by EU programmes and to disseminate useful tools and methodologies in adult education.
- Design and dissemination of a calendar to promote a selection of good practices from different countries.
- Dissemination on social networks about these study visits and the centres visited.

Key actions during the project:

- Knowledge exchange with trainers, teachers and project coordinators between the project partner organisations and the organisations visited.
- Improvement of the quality of adult education in our organisations.
- Promotion of good practices leading to increased knowledge about the European Union and its programmes among pupils and students.



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# **3.** Partners





#### Ajuntament d'Alzira | SPAIN

Alzira is a Spanish city of 44,225 inhabitants located 40 km from Valencia, the third largest city in Spain. For many years, and despite the economic crisis, Alzira's priorities have remained the same – the economic and social development of the municipality. In 2008, the municipality suffered the impact of the crisis severely, as many industries went bankrupt and the unemployment rate increased from 7.34% in 2006 to its highest point in 2013 (18.5%). The trend ever since then has been downwards; in July 2020, the rate was found at 12.17%.

The City Council of Alzira aims, through its local development agency, to promote economic development and employment in the city. In a social context of difficult economic conditions, the agency aims to provide comprehensive support to both the unemployed and entrepreneurs. It works in various fields for the development of the municipality and has proven its capabilities in the management of local, national and European projects. In 2007, IDEA received the award for the best agency for local development in the Valencian Community, recognising its work and success in the areas of entrepreneurship and local development.

The main focus areas of IDEA are as follows:

- Employment guidance (support for the unemployed to find employment), public employment programmes (IDEA brings together programmes that directly generate jobs in Alzira).
- Entrepreneurship (this service aims to support entrepreneurship through the provision of services that strengthen business plans and support the entire start-up process).
- Training (the aim is to improve the professional qualifications of groups with greater difficulties in accessing the labour market and, therefore, to promote their reintegration into working life).



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• European programmes, in which Alzira Town Council actively participates through the European projects department Alzira On Europe, integrated in IDEA.

This service focuses on European mobilities - more than 800 have been carried out since 2008, many of them in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps and Eurodisea programmes - and the management of exchange projects for young people. In addition, our European service also develops and participates in European projects such as capacity building and strategic partnerships in the field of education, vocational training and youth. In 2022, the European projects team worked on 35 different projects in different fields, such as vocational guidance and training, digital literacy, etc., for various audiences, such as young people, women or vulnerable groups.





#### Polaris | ITALY

Polaris is a reality of training and consulting in the field of human resources and business development, located in Vasto, Italy, on the Adriatic coast.

Born from the decade-long experience of the four founding partners and the professionals with whom they have been collaborating on a permanent basis for years, Polaris stands as a point of reference in the Vasto area for those who have the need and desire to train, update or learn about and use the tools made available by the Community Funds for training and development of the territory.

The staff of Polaris is composed of professionals in the field of training, management of training events, European programming, teachers and trainers.

Polaris main focus areas are:

- European Erasmus+ program for adult, school and vocational education, training and youth in mobility or coordination of and participation in Strategic Partnerships for the Exchange of Best Practices and Development of Innovation in the same areas, activating field research, innovation development, drafting of guidelines, memoranda of understanding and websites.
- Foreign language training and certification centre, as part of the Cambridge Open School and LanguageCert network for the English certification.
- Professional training paths for the issuance of the Regional Qualification, the Career orientation for unemployed, the preparation for IT certifications recognized at European and world level (EIPASS) and the courses for school personnel, teachers, pedagogists and educators (Accreditated by the Education Ministery).





#### LEVEL UP | POLAND

LEVEL UP organization was founded in 2019, on the initiative of young people who, through social projects, want to improve the quality of life of the local community, build a new model of informal education, and support young people to become socially and professionally active. It is a non-profit organization whose mission is to infect people with good energy every day and encourage social initiatives in their surroundings.

LEVEL UP focuses on constant development and unusual methods of work. We believe that through cooperation and trust, we can change many fates and make us wake up one day in a better world where no one feels excluded. We organize various educational events such as conferences, workshops, seminars, foreign exchanges and training, and study visits. We are an organization accredited in international volunteering, we can host people from other countries and help you go abroad as part of ESC.

The aim of LEVEL UP is to constantly improve the team's knowledge, so that they can implement modern and innovative projects (exchanges, workshops, trainings) that will meet the requirements and expectations of a changing society and will create its future needs. We create values for our stakeholders through the optimal use of the existing potential and the implementation of development projects.

We want to improve the quality of life of the local community, build a new model of informal education, and thus develop the socio-professional competences of children and youth, contributing to the creation of an innovative society of the future.

We want to be pioneers in the field of non-formal education and through cooperation with schools and other institutions to spread the idea of living in harmony with nature and with ourselves, thus promoting equality in society and cooperation without borders.





#### K-GEM | TURKIYE

Kadın ve Genç Girişim Merkezi Derneği (K-GEM) is a non-governmental organization founded in Ankara in 2008 with the goal of empowering women and young people through entrepreneurship. They implement projects at local, national, and international levels, focusing on areas such as education, digital competence, foreign language skills and entrepreneurial capacity.

Their vision is to help women and youth from all backgrounds discover and develop their potential, aiming to build a society based on social development and equality.

K-GEM's mission is to empower women and youth socially and economically by encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship. Our mission is to raise awareness in all segments of society, provide education and create positive change by producing sustainable solutions. K-GEM aims to leave a meaningful impact on the lives of women and young people with its people-oriented approach. In this regard, we carry out projects in various fields such as:

- Human Rights and Democracy
- Social Inclusion
- Environment and Climate Change
- Rural Development
- Digitalization
- Sport

Their goal for the future is to continue to implement projects that add value to society by touching the lives of women and young people, to offer training and support programs that reveal their potential, and to produce sustainable solutions that will spread to all segments of society. K-GEM continues its efforts to create a positive impact on society by reaching more individuals every day.



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# **3.** Good practices







#### Idea Moves Idea - Ajuntament d'Alzira, Spain

IDEA Moves is a project of the Idea department of the Ajuntament d'Alzira and an initiative within the **Erasmus+ Mobility programme** of the European Union. This project allows students from IDEA'S Vocational Education for Employment and Employment Workshops to carry out their internships abroad.

The aim of this project is that the students of these training initiatives developed by IDEA Alzira have the opportunity, thanks to these mobilities abroad, to strengthen their knowledge and put their training into practice. This project <u>as</u> also has the objective of improving the professional skills of the students through their work in a different work environment thanks to this Erasmus+ programme.

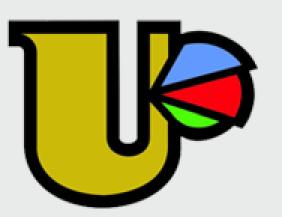
Through this programme, **key values of the European Union** are promoted, such as **freedom**, as they have the opportunity to travel, study and work in other EU countries; and **equality**, as participants usually do not have resources and these mobilities are funded so that it does not depend on the economic situation of the participant.

In addition to the mentioned values, this programme shows all people, regardless of age limit, the **possibilities offered by the European Union**, and thus strengthens the **feeling of union and European citizenship**.



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#### Università delle Tre Età Italy

The University of the Three Ages of the City of Vasto is located in Vasto, Abruzzo and relies on the volunteering of teachers and organisers, as well as all those who over the years have attended and continue to attend classes, workshops and events.

The "Mission" of the University of the Three Ages is:

- To contribute to the cultural and social promotion of its members through courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, debates, research and publications, as well as concerts, cultural trips and convivial meetings.
- To foster and encourage socialisation through the participation and active engagement of members.
- To develop interdisciplinary scientific research within the framework of lifelong education.
- To operate a comparison and synthesis of intergenerational experiences through collaboration with schools, circles and cultural associations operating in the Abruzzo region.
- To encourage the participation in cultural activities of the elderly, the disabled and others included in the area of social distress.



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#### Hippocampus Association Łódź, Poland

Hippocampus is an organization whose primary area of activity is to **create** and **implement a modern** and **creatively understood demographic policy**, with particular emphasis on the phenomenon of aging communities and the challenges associated with it. They operate based on knowledge and experience supported by the gerontological and pedagogical substantive preparation of the founders of the Association.

Hippocampus **conduct an active dialogue** and participate in the creation of various systemic solutions that allow us to develop such elements of **local and national policies** that will respond in the most adequate way to the current and future problematic effects of demographic processes.

Their activities include **continuous education** and development of knowledge and competences in the area of social gerontology, gerontoeducation (geragogy) and **all forms of intergenerational cooperation and integration**.

They are experts in **adult education** and a specific subdiscipline of andragogy (pedagogy) - geragogy, i.e. **learning and development in relation to older people**, an aging society and expectations and challenges in this area.

They **learn together** with the recipients of their activities, **with partners in projects - national and international**, with everyone who wants to exchange experiences, share knowledge and learn completely new contexts and areas for their own development.









Ankara Bilim University Ankara, Türkiye

ANKARA BiLiM ÜNIVERSITESI



Ankara Bilim University is a private university located in Ankara (Türkiye) that was founded in 2016 by the Turkish Productivity Foundation, but was not officially established until 2020. Its aim is to **develop an awareness and culture that spreads "sustainable development" at the individual and institutional level**.

In the academic year 2021-22, there were more than 700 students studying different degrees, postgraduate courses and courses; attended by a total of more than 150 professors and teaching staff. From this university, apart from the different degrees and postgraduate courses studied, we would like to highlight the non-formal education based courses offered, which are open to all adults.

This institution promotes European Union values such as **freedom**, **equality** and the **rule of law** as a basis, as these courses are accessible to everyone and allow them to continue their education without any social or educational requirements. It is also necessary to highlight the **interculturality** and **European outreach** of this university, thanks to the collaboration with European institutions and the Erasmus+ programme.



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#### CFPA Enric Valor CFPA Vicent Ventura Spain

The Enric Valor and Vicent Ventura centres are training centres for adults in Alzira and Valencia, respectively. The aim of these centres is to provide formal and nonformal education to people who have dropped out of school and are given a second chance.

These centres promote **key values of the European Union** such as the **rule of law**, as centres for citizen participation and neighbourhood structuring; **freedom**, as they offer the possibility of studying and participating in Erasmus+ mobility programmes; and **equality**, as they guarantee that all people have the same rights.

It should be noted that these centres do a great deal of work to promote **interculturality** and respect for different nationalities from inside and outside the EU. These schools have classrooms with people of more than 14 different nationalities. Also, these schools are **community development and intergenerational centres**, as they have students from the age of 16 with no maximum age limit.

Finally, it should be highlighted that many of the actions they carry out or their materials are financed by the European Union, so the students are **aware of the possibilities offered by the European Union**.



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#### Centro per l'Impiego CPI, Italy

CPIs are public facilities coordinated by the regions or autonomous provinces in Italy. They facilitate the matching of the labour market and promote active labour policy interventions.

They also carry out administrative activities, such as registration on mobility lists and lists of protected categories, terminating employment agreements and issuing unemployment certificates.

Italy's CPIs are promoting the GOL Program, a reform effort under Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), which is funded by the European Union to upgrade active labor policy services.

The GOL Programme redesigns employment services to improve people's job placement and targets workers that rely on social safety nets or other income supports, vulnerable workers (young people, women with special disadvantages, people with disabilities, over 55), working poor, unemployed people without income supports, etc.

Polaris is an Implementing Body of the GOL Programme which means that our education centre organises training courses that are promoted by the Abruzzo Region. This way we show our involvement in European funded policies by working together with these kinds of organisations.



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## Me Mo

#### MEMO Media Library Łódź, Poland

MeMo Media Library is a place that **combines traditional library collections** with access to **modern technologies**.

It follows an innovative concept in which every user of the library is able not only to read and borrow books, but also use **professionally equipped sound recording and editing studios**, a gaming space with **VR system**, a film club, and a rich workshop offer. The only requirement to get access to library's resources is to start a free and easy to get membership.

In terms of European values, this is a perfect example of promoting **accessibility** and **equality**. Hobbyists or aspiring musicians, who normally would not be able to afford an access to a professional recording studio, might get all the equipment they need from a public institution. Moreover, they are able to exercise on professional musical instruments. The same applies for photography (there is a studio) as well as other activities.

The goal of MeMo is to offer **valuable forms of spending time for people of all ages**, regardless of their financial status. This creates an opportunity for locals to integrate and tighten relationships around common interests which leads to a stronger and more supportive community.



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Altındag Public Education Center Ministry of National Education of Türkiye Ankara, Türkiye

Altındag Public Education Center is an educational centre under the General Directorate of Lifelong Learning of the Turkish National Ministry of Education. In this centre, as in many others throughout the country, **formal and non-formal education courses** are provided with the main objectives of **increasing the literacy rate and establishing a culture of lifelong learning by raising social awareness**.

The Ministry, through this centre and many others throughout the country, educates people of all ages in courses deemed necessary for the intellectual and social development of the citizenry. These courses are open to all people who have left formal education behind, with the aim of reintegrating them into the education system. It is also worth highlighting the involvement of this institution in taking advantage of **European funds** and programmes such as **Erasmus+**.

With these actions and these courses, the Turkish National Ministry of Education and the Directorate General of Lifelong Learning focuses on the promotion of **European values** such as **freedom**, **promotion of human rights and democracy**; as well as interculturality and intergenerationality.



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#### Fundación CEDAT Spain

The Fundación CEDAT is a foundation of the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia that offers information and advice to members of the university community with disabilities, as well as accompaniment and support in the classroom. It provides technical study aids to those students who, due to their special educational needs, require them. It promotes and manages training and employment actions for this group inside and outside the campuses of the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia.

This foundation **promotes European values** such as **equality**, as it enables people with disabilities to access the labour market under equal conditions. It also promotes two key European values, **human dignity and human rights**, by helping people with functional diversity to live a life like everyone else through adaptation, training and counselling.

The CEDAT Foundation also participates in the **European project Grow Green with its Cistella Responsable project**. This project consists of putting local and KMO farmers in contact with each other so that they can sell their products, and it is people with disabilities who have access to this work.

This foundation, in part, and projects like the *Cistella Responsable* are **financed by the European Union**, and it is in this way that **this foundation highlights and shows people the possibilities offered by the European Union**.



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#### LKL *Let's Keep Learning* APS-ETS, Italy

Let's Keep Learning is a 'Social Promotion Association' registered in the Third Sector Register, based in Vasto (Italy) and specialises in the care and assistance of disadvantaged people caused by cultural, social, economic and/or psychological distress.

The Association was founded on the initiative of a group of parents, psychologists, pedagogists and experts in training and education with the aim of carrying out:

- 1. Initiatives aimed at raising awareness of social, educational and psychological distress (dyslexia, ADHD, autism) of children and adolescents;
- 2. Non-formal education for students and youth, especially those with socioeconomic obstacles, students with learning difficulties, with SEN, at risk of drop-out and/or early school leaving;
- 3. Training for parents, teachers, social workers, support teachers and generally all those who, for professional or personal reasons, assist people with disabilities
- 4. Training for adults, especially for the disadvantaged

In 2022, following numerous participations and applications in Erasmus+ projects in the adult education sector, LKL became accredited in the ADU and has since organised and conducted dozens and dozens of local training courses for adults with low language and digital skills, and many individual mobilities abroad to continue training and development of hard and soft skills.



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Fundacja Aktywizacja

#### The Activation Foundation Łódź, Poland

The Activation Foundation is based on many years of experience in **implementing professional activation activities**. The foundation has built a comprehensive model that takes into account both the needs of people with disabilities and employers offering employment. When shaping the offer of services provided by the foundation, they are guided by both the current needs of people with disabilities and dynamically changing economic conditions. They **help people with disabilities from all over the country improve their qualifications and socio-professional competences**, find or change jobs, and **offer employers advice** on the employment of people with disabilities, training and job placement.

The foundation is also active in advocacy processes - by cooperating with many entities, they **ensure that the problems of people with disabilities are noticed by everybody**. They founded and coordinate the ON Inclusion 14-20 Group, which **contributes to the implementation of accessibility principles in EU projects**.

The foundation's aim is to **support people with disabilities in** preparing and entering **the labor market**. It also helps employers **create an inclusive work environment** and recruit people with disabilities.



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Pursaklar Municipality Cultural Affairs Directorate Handicrafts and Arts Center Ankara, Türkiye

Pursaklar Municipality Cultural Affairs Directorate Handicrafts and Arts Center is a public education centre belonging to the municipality of Pursaklar. This centre provides **formal and non-formal education** courses for the inhabitants of this city, with the aim of further training or education in different areas.

This centre has non-formal education courses in music, painting, hairdressing and cooking, among others, as well as language courses, which are open to all interested people, regardless of their age. Among the main objectives of the students are to study to set up a business, to learn how to do housework, to study a new language or to learn different skills in their free time.

**Key values** of the European Union such as **human dignity**, **freedom** and **equality** are promoted in the courses. It is also worth mentioning the **intercultural and intergenerational nature** of this centre.



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#### The University of Third Age Łódź, Poland

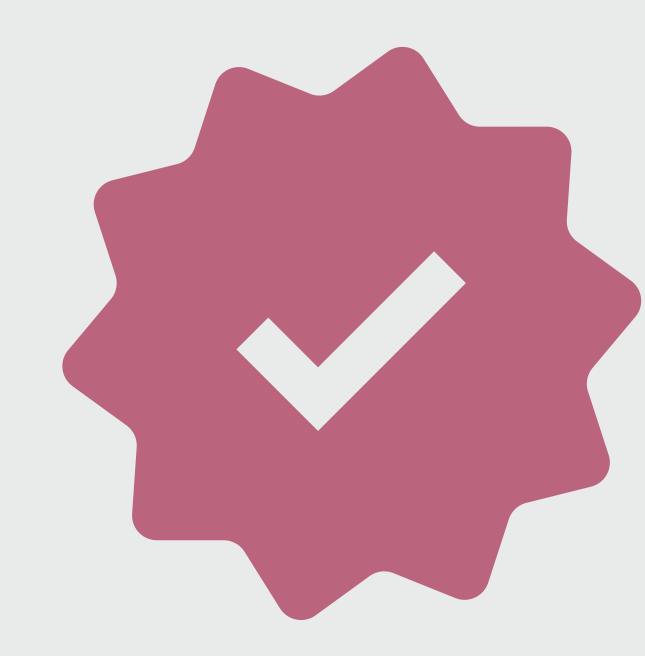
The University of Third Age in Łódź is an educational institution that follows the concept of an **university**, **but for seniors**. Its students are either pensioners or people on the pre-retirement benefit and the goal of the University is to offer them an opportunity to study as long as they are willing to. The number of students amounts to about **1200 people a year**, and the **age range is from 55 to 100**. There are no marks or student record books.

The main aim of this organization is to **motivate elderly people in their intellectual, psychophysical, artistic and social development**. It realizes it's strategy by providing interesting lectures and workshops delivered by eminent specialists from various fields. Lectures are taking place twice a week in a semester system. The University consists of **20 special interest groups** such as literature, ecology, tourism or contemporary classical music. What's more, foreign language courses are being held as well, including English, German or Japanese. In addition, plenty of physical/manual activities and computer courses are offered.

In terms of European values, the University strongly promotes the value of **lifelong learning** as well as **accessibility** by providing quality knowledge and ability to learn contemporary skills to people who normally could struggle to get it at other institutions.



# **4.** Conclusions





The dissemination of the values of the European Union is crucial to build a more united Europe, and it is necessary that this dissemination takes place in all areas and contexts, and for all ages. The European project *YOUropean: What's Europe to you?* has allowed a team from each of the participating organisations to learn how, in these different countries, the values of the European Union are promoted and how to take advantage of and disseminate all the opportunities that this international organisation offers.

In order to design this good practices guide, each organisation has proposed different pre-selected organisations for a team from each project partner to visit and learn from each other. During the visits, there was the possibility not only to talk, discuss and exchange views on structures and procedures, but also to learn from each other about the best practices of the places visited.

After each visit, each organisation can learn and adapt to each of the observed good practices in order to apply them to their own organisations and training courses, thus improving the adult training provided by each organisation.

In the specific case of the Ajuntament d'Alzira, after visiting the different organisations, the management and teaching staff of the Idea training courses can apply the best techniques and resources to the courses taught in this organisation. One of the people who has travelled to the different study visits is a teacher of the vocational training course for employment in teaching. This teacher will be able to pass on to his students and future teachers all the good practices known by him, in order to increase their training in the field of teaching. These future teachers, in turn, will be able to apply it in their future classrooms, thus reaching the maximum number of learners.

Also, not only the project partners and their organisations have benefited from this project. Each school and organisation that this project has visited has







benefited from this project through debates and exchanges of opinions and ideas between the project partners, which have been explained to the managers and teachers of the schools visited. Thus, the exchange of ideas and good practices has been transversal and reciprocal.

Finally, the dissemination of this guide of good practices, together with the calendar and the worksheets, will serve to take everything learned and the good practices known to each and every one of the institutions, organisations and centres with which we work and with which we will work in the future. Also, through social networks and websites, where the good practice guide will be published, it will reach more centres and organisations so that they too can learn from the project and all the organisations involved.



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