

Citizens Xelerator project: An innovative methodology to foster adults' participation in democratic and civic life

CITIZENS XELERATOR

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INTRODUCTION

Participation in democratic and civic life comprises a key ingredient for the promotion of inclusion and empowerment of people in/or at risk of exclusion.

Citizens Xelerator is a European project that aims to:

- Strengthen the democratic and civic literacy and social empathy of adults with unmet literacy needs
- Contribute to a systemic change in the regional/national/European approach and strategies fostering adults' participation in democratic life, embrace the common values and civic engagement.

METHODOLOGY

- 2-year project, implemented by 9 partners from 8 European countries (Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, Croatia, Ireland, Romania and Greece)
- Addressed to organizations and professionals of adult education and learning, adults with unmet literacy needs and other civil society organizations.
- 5 interrelated Work Packages (WPs).

Concept:

- Application, scaling up and/or inspiration from 4 European instruments and tools while designing a model and kit to promote the literacy, capacitation, empowerment and civic engagement and participation:
 - **LifeComp**: The European framework for the personal, social and learning to learn key competence
 - **EntreComp**: The Entrepreneurship Competence Framework
 - **DigComp**: The Digital Competence Framework 2.0
 - **GreenComp**: The European sustainability competence framework

RESULTS

The Citizens Xelerator project is built into an innovative methodology comprised of 3 main phases:

1

Designing innovation

Development of the Citizens Xelerator products and resources.

- **LifeComp Cards Collection**: 9 cards organised in 3 main areas: Personal, Social, and Learning



[Consult here](#)

- **Citizens Xelerator model and kit**: a) guidelines and supports for the establishment of the Citizens Xelerator Lab, and b) instruments/resources to be used by adult professionals for the preparation and implementation of the activities defined for the lab.

2

Pilot action

Implementation of the Citizens Xelerator results in the real context of adult learning.

- **8 Action Labs**
- **16 brainstorming sessions** of the Citizens Xelerator think tank, attended by 240 adults;
- **40 actions** prepared and launched by 80 adults;
- **16 Citizens Xelerator Days** promoted involving 80 adults;
- **88 micro-learning sessions** implemented with 880 adults.

3

Scaling up and scalability

Scaling up and scalability of the project's results.

- **3 events**, two national and one international;
- **Exploitation plan**
- **Sustainability strategy**, based on the 9 blocks of the Business Canva.
- **Raising awareness of target groups** to the project's activities and products;
- **Mobilizing and engaging target groups** in the different activities of the project, in particular in the pilot action with organizations inside and outside partners
- **Maximizing the opportunities** of multiplication and progress mainstreaming of the project's results.

CONCLUSIONS

- The formulation of Citizens Xelerator resources will draw upon the expertise of adult education professionals and providers within the consortium. These resources will subsequently undergo testing through collaboration with low-skilled adults and civil society organizations during the pilot action.
- By implementing this innovative methodology, the Citizens Xelerator project expects to contribute to a systemic change at the regional, national and European levels on the approaches and strategies aimed at supporting adults' participation in democratic life.

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