



Manifesto on learning and education for an inclusive multi-cultural society

Source:

- 👉 First EAAL forum on the future of adult education:
FORUM ON LEARNING AND EDUCATION FOR AN INCLUSIVE MULTI-CULTURAL SOCIETY
- 👉 20 January 2021 held online
- 👉 organisers: Slovenian Institute of Adult Education, SLOGA Platform and Slovenian Philanthropy
- 👉 website:
<https://epuo.acs.si/dejavnosti/forumi/migracije>

INTRODUCTION

Migration is a constant and significantly contributes to the development of societies.

The field of migration is conflicting and contradictory; on the one hand, there is the positive, economic aspect (successful economies are built on migrant work), and on the other hand, there is the negative, social aspect (prejudices, stereotypes, intolerance, hate crimes).


We need data, not mythologies. Public opinion is highly divided, often negative and shaped mainly by politics and the media. The field is interdisciplinary; therefore, a cross-sector collaboration between ministries is essential.

Working with migrants has three interrelated components:

1. Institutional/professional work (methods, techniques, prescribed methods of work): often, the foreigner gets access to an educational institution first – the school normalises life; it offers a permanent protective environment with a lot of social interactions.
2. Interpersonal/relational/emotional work: relations between students and teachers (class teacher, Slovenian language teacher) and the entire psychosocial climate at school can offer the experience that there are good people in the world, that good exists in the world.
3. External resources beyond institutions: for volunteers, non-professional assistants, formal and informal teachers and citizens, helping to integrate immigrants is an excellent lesson in solidarity, empathy and humanity.

BASIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acceptance of difference is of a declarative nature. The concepts of social solidarity, multiculturalism, intercultural communication are supposed to be part of a highly developed civilisation. At the level of operation, global and national systems are extremely bureaucratically formalistic. Instead of accepting foreigners as living beings, norms and standards are followed.

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- It is necessary to move from good practices to a model of action: to ensure permanence and sustainability, to spread them geographically and across the entire educational/learning field and to include NGOs, embassies, cultural centres, global organisations.
 - Knowledge of language is essential for successful integration; it is a means of social inclusion and the key to an independent professional life.
 - Integration during the covid-19 epidemic has been additionally hampered. Requests to the Supreme Institutions to enable working with children in person, taking into account security measures, were not granted, not even when working with children with special needs was already allowed. At home, they did not have the opportunity to get to know their peers and the Slovenian language. We mainly equipped families with technology, despite parents not being skilled at it.
 - We need to offer them a lesson in something good; they have already experienced the bad – either they experienced war or poverty. What matters is a broader acceptance that shapes a positive view of a world in which it is worth giving because we are always also receiving. A well-received immigrant becomes a good citizen who raises the quality and reputation of the country in which they live.
 - We need to pay attention to the unpleasant experiences, to peer persecution and humiliation that covertly happen. If we welcome migrants with stereotypes that they are terrorists and occupy jobs, we push them to the margins, thus causing problems in the indefinite future.
 - We need to provide specific knowledge to people who have concrete meetings with migrants so they can further spread good faith and spread this ethos among undecided and those with opposing views.

The background is a light orange color. It features several stylized handprints in white and orange. In the top left, there is a cluster of small orange dots. In the bottom right, there is a larger cluster of small orange dots. The word "Appeals" is written in a large, bold, orange font, centered in the upper half of the page.

Appeals

1. Allow yourself to meet the people with whom you live. Coexistence is much easier when both sides get to know each other. On both sides, there are people with false, high expectations. Our identity and ethics are revealed in a new environment; only then do we see how open we are to new experiences, opinions and values.
2. At the systemic level, it is necessary to provide more jobs for working with migrants in terms of intercultural integration and strengthening skills they need in order to contribute more to Slovenian society.
3. The general public needs to be made aware and informed so that each individual will prevent conflicts between peers of the same and different nationalities.