

## LEARNERS FORUMS

### *Syndesmos Ekpedevsis Enilikon Kyprou (CAEA)*

#### I. General information

<b>Field :</b>	Adult education centres
<b>Theme(s) addressed</b>	The establishment of the learners forums is vital for the survival and development of the Adult Education Centres of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry is grateful for learners contribution towards needs for funding, for dissemination, for organizational support. The centres are in the heart of the population. The committees role is so important.
<b>Pursued objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The promotion of the aims of the adult education centres.</li> <li>2. The development of cooperation among the members of the adult education centres.</li> <li>3. The cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the tutors, the learners, the authorities for the better functioning of the centres to meet the needs and interest of the adult population.</li> <li>4. The organization of various activities such as seminars, study visits, fund raising activities etc</li> <li>5. The organization of symposiums to identify problems and give advices to adult centres.</li> <li>6. To make suggestions to policy makers for the development of the centres.</li> <li>7. To give financial assistance to the centres for materials etc.</li> <li>8. To mobilize the participants to be active and to feel the centres as their own programme.</li> </ol>
<b>Method(s) used</b>	<p>The Cyprus learners forum-committees, are active for many years and is a very good example of good practices all over Europe.</p> <p>There is a long tradition in Cyprus, and the learners committees present a self management organization which is supporting significantly the Adult education Centres of the Ministry of education and Culture.</p> <p>The impact of the learners forum in the development and progress of the Adult Centres is so high and the voice of learners is heard.</p>

## II. Description

The first committee was established in Nicosia in 1985. Representatives from all groups of learners came together to discuss the better development of the centres and how learners can contribute. The 300 representatives established the first District committee. Later committees were established in all 4 districts of Cyprus and finally the national learners forum was established.

The national committee and the 4 district committees are registered as associations at the Ministry of Interior of the Government and they work based on a constitution.

Every year all committees have elections and new committees are established.

### Practical modalities

Each group of learners –usually 12-15 learners- elect on representative. All representatives consist the local or regional committee. All Adult Education Centres have committees and they come together to elect the District committees. In Nicosia district there are 12.000 members, about 1000 groups and about 1000 representatives.

## III. Self-determination evidence

There is an increase of the participants at the programme. Every year the learners are more and more. Research has shown that most learners of the previous years are learners to next year etc. This shown the confidence of n the learners to the programme. Is showing the interest of the learners, the happiness of the learners. Many are saying that because of the many activities organized by the members committees they love to be member again and again. They say that the committees make the programme active, live, interesting.

Comments of members:

- “I am active member in local committee. We organize activities, we make suggestions, we feel the programme as ours. I am so happy”
- “I can express myself and suggest improvements to the policy makers. I am worthy. I attend grafts but I feel so much happiness taking part in seminars and learn something. “
- “I am member of the district committee. I am learning so many skills having meetings often to identify problems, to hear learners, to give advices. I will never stop being a member of the adult education centres”.
- “The Ministry of Education is giving us recognition to express ideas for improvements. We feel the programme as ours. I made so many friends. I am learning organizational skills. We celebrate many events. We organize exhibitions. . We have often learners forum-meetings and we find solutions to problems.”
- “Every year I am doing dissemination campaign and inform many friends about the programme. I have success. The programme is well known to everybody due to the work of committees and members forums.”
- “The self management committees is the most important decision for the survival and development of the adult centres.”
- “The centres are alive, active giving learners, hope, skills, happiness, security, willingness to be active and healthy”
- “We are happy to collect funds to distribute to the centres of need. Tutors have many need and we help”

## IV. Contact

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