

Melitopol Municipality, Ukraine



Learning city of Melitopol

Keyword(s):

labour Market and VET,
marginalised groups, building institutions



Introduction

Creating employment for everyone and boosting economic growth are the two main strategic objectives.

Main challenge

According to the information collected by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, several important businesses in Melitopol recently closed, which greatly impacted the city's socio-economic development, causing the unemployment rate to increase rapidly. By joining the UNESCO GNLC (Global Network of Learning Cities), Melitopol aimed to tackle:

- 1) the lack of opportunities for marginalized groups to participate in learning activities;
- 2) limited educational infrastructure; and
- 3) residents' insufficient competitiveness in the job market.

Some examples of initiatives that have been put in place are the following:

- (a) the foundation of an Adult Education Centre, which provides free educational services to the adult population, including refugees and veterans, to increase entrepreneurship and knowledge of business basics to raise their competitiveness in the labour market.

- (b) mapping of educational resources on Google Maps (maps.google.com.ua) to disseminate lifelong learning opportunities among the population.
- (c) A public sociological survey conducted in late 2017 with 5,000 city residents and 12 focus groups to map individual, public and institutional urban resources of lifelong educational services.” (source: https://uil.unesco.org/sites/default/files/doc/lifelong-learning/cities/4th-conference/learning_cities_award_2019.pdf)

EAEA’s desk research also indicated that the following initiatives have also been implemented: (i) World of Communities Simulation Board Game - the city uses the game with its citizens to encourage community development and to foster a diverse set of skills: critical thinking, cooperation, financial literacy etc. and (ii) Melitopol Voices for Democracy: a project that shed light on the needs of citizens with disabilities, it developed a curriculum of non-formal education and a strategy to be used by the city council to improve infrastructure. (source: <https://www.dvv-international.de/en/adult-education-and-development/editions/ae-d-842017-inclusion-and-diversity/inclusion-in-practice/voices-of-melitopol-for-democracy-case-study-from-ukraine>)

Timing

Ongoing

Objective

Creating employment for everyone and boosting economic growth are the two main strategic objectives.

Target group

General population, socially vulnerable groups

Geographical range

City of Melitopol

Stakeholders and partners

City council, schools, NGOs, national and international networks (e.g. the Ukrainian Association of Learning Cities, UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities)

Compliance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The project is in compliance with SDG 4 (quality education), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities)

Innovation(s)

Marked focus on Internally Displaced Persons.

Success parameters

Awarded the 2019 UNESCO Learning City Award for, among others, retraining internally displaced persons.

Impact

No information is available about the impact of the Learning City on its citizens, but there is an impact report available on one of the initiatives led in the city of Melitopol, in which the City Council was involved (please note that no information is mentioned in the report of Melitopol being a Learning City): <https://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/-/melitopol-and-ballarat-release-the-impact-study-of-their-icc-competence-project> . Also, the Voices for Democracy initiative seems to have had a lasting impact, including a city-level strategy addressing the needs of citizens with disabilities.

Replicability

The initiative can be replicated and adapted to different environments.

Website/Social Media profile(s) of the initiative

Website of the city: <http://mlt.gov.ua/>

To learn more, you can visit:

<https://uil.unesco.org/city/melitopol>

<http://ualc.org.ua/2017/03/02/learning-cities-in-ukraine-melitopol-joins-the-unesco-global-network-of-learning-cities/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIESQdmNkDg> (World of Communities game played by citizens of Melitopol);

<https://worldofcommunities.org/thegame> (information about the WoC game, in UKR)

Contact details

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