

2019-12

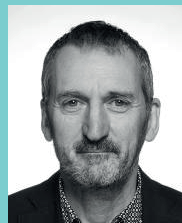
NON-FORMAL EDUCATION, A 21ST-CENTURY REQUIREMENT

The last six months' headlines show how urgent it is to open platforms enabling citizens to express themselves, exchange viewpoints, participate in the debates that nourish our society, and above all be heard and so actively contribute to national and local decision-making alike.

Because it irrigates society and facilitates citizenship and civic engagement, non-formal education is a genuine asset for better "living together". Its benign approach, acknowledgement that everyone "is capable", active methods, determination to emancipate women and men alike, and its critical approach are all aspects that help nourish the search for new democratic forms and spaces, participation, co-production and concrete actions fully in line with the realities of everyday life. Non-formal education forms part of a political

project focusing on social justice and emancipation. Its capacity for social research and innovation also makes it a laboratory serving the general interest.

This Opinion seeks to highlight the modernity of non-formal education. It makes twenty practical recommendations designed to help revitalise and promote its initiatives, free its many stakeholders from their current invisibility, and lend them support in the necessary reform of the way they operate, so that they can participate to the full in a dynamic of renewal. They are organised around five major priorities: investing in public policies on non-formal education to help reconcile society; developing social ties in order to strengthen citizenship; securing the economic model; training the various actors involved and recognising their skills; fostering engagement and renewing governance.



Christian Chevalier

is a schoolteacher and former Secretary-General of the UNSA's Teachers' Union (SE). At the ESEC, he is a member of the Section for Education, Culture and Communication, where he represents the UNSA Group.

Contact:

christian.chevalier@lecese.fr
+33 (0)1 44 43 64 24



Jean-Karl Deschamps

is Secretary-General of the Ligue de l'Enseignement (Education League). At the ESEC, he is a member of the Section for Education, Culture and Communication, where he represents the Associations Group.

Contact:

jean-karl.deschamps@lecese.fr
+33 (0)1 44 43 64 04

THE ESEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS

INVESTING IN PUBLIC POLICIES ON NON-FORMAL EDUCATION TO HELP RECONCILE SOCIETY

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- **implementation of a proactive national plan aiming to ensure that all areas are equipped with at least one multidisciplinary facility, a place for new encounters, sharing and debate, by mobilising their non-formal education organisations;**
- **that a permanent interministerial delegate responsible for non-formal education be appointed, attached to the Prime Minister;**
- **significant increases in National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education's (INJEP) human and financial resources;**

- that a fund for support to innovation and experimentation be created and run in full association with actors in non-formal education and local authorities;
- that research on non-formal education be provided with increased support in the context of the upcoming Research Programming Act.

DEVELOPING SOCIAL TIES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN CITIZENSHIP

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- a plan to revitalise local educational projects by making them a tool for creating synergies between action by co-educators in their areas and schools;
- reinforcement of Citizenship Education in secondary schools by promoting partnership work between actors in National Education and non-formal education;
- revitalisation of summer camps and discovery classes by securing their legal and administrative frameworks and return to a level of funding that would enable every child to participate at least three times during their schooling;
- that, subject to assessment of actions carried out, the Fabriques d'Initiatives Citoyennes (Citizens' Initiatives Factories) scheme be perpetuated and provided with enough resources for it to be continued;
- incorporation of a measure into collective agreements that enables provision of support to employees without the need for Social and Economic Committees, following negotiations between social partners.

SECURING THE ECONOMIC MODEL

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- fostering use of the Convention Pluriannuelle d'Objectifs (CPO – Multiannual Agreement on Objectives) as a mode of funding non-formal education organisations' activities;
- increasing the number of FONJEP (Cooperative Fund for Youth and Non-Formal Education) aids to non-formal education organisations in order to stabilise and reinforce their actions over time;
- stabilising the fiscal framework specific to non-formal education organisations due to the disinterested character of the management, the indivisibility of their profits, their not-for-profit basis, and their contribution to the general interest in compliance with the Charter of Reciprocal Commitments.

TRAINING AND RECOGNISING SKILLS

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- identification and coordination of the initial and continuing training offer as regards non-formal education sector professions;
- following a study, opening the Compte Engagement Citoyen (CEC – Citizen Engagement Account) to all volunteers who invest at least 200 hours of their time a year in community actions, and envisaging top-ups of the CEC by the Compte Personnel de Formation (Personal Training Account);
- major investment in training volunteers, with significant contributions to the Fonds de Développement de la Vie Associative (FDVA – Community Life Development Fund): FDVA 1: Formation des Bénévoles (Training volunteers).

FOSTERING ENGAGEMENT AND RENEWING GOVERNANCE

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- developing the Passeport Bénévole® (Volunteer Passport), promoting it in upper secondary schools in order to make it accessible to everyone, and reinforcing means of access to civic services in non-formal education organisations;
- raising awareness on Articles 10 and 43 of the "Equality and Citizenship" Act of January 2017 and making regular assessments of its application. The Act enables all volunteers to go on leave in order to sit on associations' administrative or supervisory bodies. It also enables 16-year-olds to take over their administration;
- trying out extension of the tax credit beyond six years, so enabling cover of childcare expenses with a view to promoting parity in non-formal education organisations' statutory bodies;
- encouraging non-formal education organisations to limit their directors' consecutive mandates to three, or to nine years, so as to foster young people's access to such positions and ensure parity in their statutory bodies.