



## EFIL position on the promotion of EU shared values through education August 2017

The European Federation for Intercultural Learning - EFIL welcomes the initiative of a “*Recommendation on Promoting social inclusion and shared values through formal and non-formal learning*” as a follow up of the [‘Paris declaration’](#). We are glad to contribute to this initiative through the Open Consultation launched by the European Commission.

EFIL, represents 30 volunteer-led organisations in Europe promoting intercultural learning through international long-term and short-term exchanges of pupils and volunteers, based on non formal education approaches.

Intercultural learning is at the core of the EU shared values and we recommend to focus on the following tools to promote these values through education :

- **Include intercultural approaches in school curricula**  
School curricula should be based on a multi-perspective approach to be applied especially to the teaching of subjects, in particular history.
- **Implement the whole school approach**  
Schools should be a democratic environment where cooperation among all stakeholders in the community is practiced, in order to learn to live together in mutual respect. Stakeholders are learners, parents, teachers, representatives of organisations operating in the local community, especially non-formal education providers.
- **Promote mobility of pupils**  
Learning mobility is a key tool to develop intercultural competence, in particular aspects such as tolerance of ambiguity, adaptation, critical thinking. Research proves that mobility at a young age has a stronger and long-lasting impact in the development of people’s attitudes. Long-term individual pupil mobility and short-term class exchanges should be fostered and teachers should be supported in accompanying students in these experiences, and use them as a learning opportunity for the whole classroom and school. The close cooperation with volunteer-led, non-profit organisations expert in running pupil mobility programmes can be a great asset in this framework.
- **Ensure intercultural competences of teacher are developed through initial and continuing education**  
In order to promote intercultural learning, teachers should develop intercultural competence as part of their initial education. They should also be provided with learning mobility opportunities and in-service training on how to deal with diversity, facilitate dialogue and mutual understanding. Intercultural competence can only be developed through experiential learning, therefore non-formal education methods should be applied to teacher training on this topic.
- **Provide financial support to foster inclusion in education**  
Non formal education organisations implement activities which strongly promote EU shared values, however they need financial support in order to reach out to disadvantaged groups.

For more information :

[www.efil.afs.org](http://www.efil.afs.org)

[www.intercultural-learning.eu](http://www.intercultural-learning.eu)