

Training actions to promote volunteering



Service-Learning

Integrates solidarity action into an academic training program.

Students develop personal competencies while providing community service.



Training of Association Leaders

Association leaders receive training to coordinate groups, motivate staff, and manage the association.

Associations with effective leaders maintain their activity over time and improve the cohesion of their community environment.



Early Participation Experiences

Education for participation through experience allows the development of skills in a critical evolutionary period.

Adolescents with early experiences of participation are more likely to become involved as active citizens during adulthood.

8 principles of effective actions to promote participation



1

Develop personal relationships



5

Create community networks and coalitions



2

Reinforce small achievements



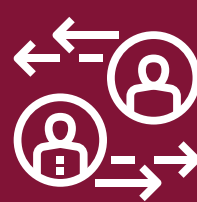
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Prioritize endogenous development processes



3

Persist



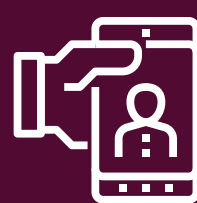
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Build alternative community contexts



4

Foster functional organizations



8

Use information technologies



Reinforcing those who participate, training leaders, strengthening the community and fostering associationism are ways to build participation.



Lines of action

Volunteer motivation



Exemplary program

UN online volunteering (Online volunteering programme)



Description

- The United Nations online volunteering programme is a digital platform designed to facilitate the mobilisation, recruitment and management of volunteers.
- The same device integrates the management of volunteering staff members, as well as their relationship with the organisations they collaborate with and with United Nations staff.
- Although it was launched in the year 2000, this type of online participation has been revitalised during the COVID-19 pandemic, coinciding with the integration of all services on to a single virtual platform.
- This initiative is promising, given that it allows tasks to be divided and is particularly well suited to new forms of episodic volunteering.



Lines of action

Education for participation



Exemplary program

Clinical practices with homeless people

(Service-learning for nursing students)



Description

- A nursing school in Minnesota implemented a service-learning programme to develop intercultural communication skills among its students.
- Through external practices, undergraduate students carry out clinical rotations at a shelter for the homeless. This activity forms part of the academic curriculum.
- Direct experience allows them to develop empathy and acquire a more realistic view of this group's needs. Through a process of reflection, the students better understand the impact of homeless people on families and develop skills to interact with culturally diverse groups.
- The service-learning programme encourages civic responsibility among students while making a contribution to the community.



Lines of action

Training of leaders



Exemplary program

Blockbuster Project

(Training of the management staff of neighbourhood associations)



Description

“The Blockbuster project consisted of a community intervention to improve the functioning of neighbourhood associations in Brooklyn and Queens, in New York. To do this, organisational development strategies were launched with neighbourhood associations. Firstly, they evaluated the degree of community cohesion, the type of leadership and the involvement in activities organised in each block of the district. Secondly, they conducted intensive training with the leaders of these associations. The training focused on strategies for recruiting, motivating and managing members of neighbourhood organisations. Likewise, the leaders were trained to reduce barriers to participation, provide incentives, increase the diversity of activities and facilitate involvement in decision-making. The consultancy was effective and significantly increased the level of neighbourhood participation”

(Maya-Jariego, 2021, p. 197).



Lines of action

Volunteering management



Exemplary program

Volunteering Australia

(Code of conduct for volunteering management)



Description

- *Volunteering Australia* establishes a series of guidelines for the proper functioning of the different stages of the volunteering life cycle in the organisations where they provide their services.
- Among other measures, it foresees the establishment of written policies and procedures, where the rights and duties of volunteers are defined and a detailed description of the tasks to be performed is provided.
- It is assumed that the recruitment, involvement and retention of volunteers depends on developing appropriate practices of guidance, sustained support, training and recognition by the organisation.
- It also regulates issues such as insurance coverage for volunteer staff and the relationship with the organisation's salaried staff.



Lines of action

Promotion of associationism



Exemplary program

Jewish Community Centers

Infrastructure and facilities for community uses)



Description

- Community centres offer meeting facilities for members of associations or residents of the community.
- Given that the official headquarters is one of the most important expenses faced by the associations, the halls of civic centres contribute indirectly to the formation of community-based organisations.
- Informal groups, emerging groups and smaller entities especially benefit, therefore, it is a resource that also contributes to citizen innovation.
- Finally, by sharing the same community centre, networking opportunities are created between the representatives of the associative movement.



Lines of action

Parent associations



Exemplary program

Edúcame Primero

(Educate Me First)



Description

- Schools are community centres in which relationships are established between the surrounding families.
- In the *Edúcame Primero programme* for the prevention of child labour, meetings were organised between schools and parents in which families connected with each other and with the school.
- The establishment of relationships between families in the community has a preventive value, as it contributes to the development of shared social norms.
- In this way, through participation in school, the mechanisms of positive social control are improved. The Associations of Mothers and Fathers of Students can play a key role in complementing public policies and preventive programmes.



Lines of action

Inter-organisational networks



Exemplary program

Tobacco Free America Coalition

(Community coalitions)



Description

- This is a collective formed by representatives of state organisations, religious groups and community associations committed to reducing tobacco consumption.
- They perform educational activities, demand the implementation of preventive programmes and press for the approval of restrictive regulations to prevent smoking in public buildings.
- They also promote the conducting of tests for early cancer diagnosis. Specific groups are formed in each locality, the functioning of which depends partly on leadership ability, member participation, collaboration with public institutions and group cohesion.
- These types of initiatives have contributed significantly to the reduction in the prevalence of smoking in the United States.



Lines of action

Systematisation of the practice



Exemplary program

Independent Sector

(Information exchange centres)



Description

- *Independent Sector* is a platform of volunteering organisations that provides services to strengthen associative living in the United States.
- Among other activities, they provide training, develop educational materials, supply information and promote the establishment of relationships between entities in the sector.
- It is an intermediary organisation that operates as a “clearing house”: that is, it facilitates the transfer of science to practice, systematises the lessons learned from the implementation of programmes and attempts to disseminate good intervention practices.
- In addition to promoting mutual support between the entities of the Third Sector, it promotes evidence-based practices and documents experience-based knowledge.