

Local Community Animator as an Option for a Professional Path for Young People

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Abstract

The role of a local community animator is crucial in community development and capacity building as it empowers individuals and groups with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to make positive changes. However, with young people spending more time on the Internet and identifying with virtual communities, there is a growing detachment from the local environment. This is why it is important to motivate and encourage young people to become more involved in their communities, increasing their chances of employment while pursuing their passions and developing their talents and skills. Local animators play a key role in this effort by inspiring, mobilizing, engaging, educating, and supporting individuals and social groups to become active members of their communities. To excel in this profession, local animators require a diverse range of skills such as patience, negotiation, motivation, teamwork, time management, problem-solving, communication, creativity, and stress management. The Erasmus+ K2 project, "Local environment animator - a new chance for youth development," delivered by partners from Slovenia, Poland, Slovakia, and Italy, has prepared a multilingual online module for local animators and a collection of more than 30 good practices, tools, and innovative methods to reinforce and enhance the profession of local community animators.

Keywords: Local community animator, youth development, community engagement, skills developments, Erasmus + project Local Environment Animator