PRESS RELEASE

Honorary acknowledgement from the European Commission about The Learning Hub initiative

The LEARNING HUB is an innovative initiative organised by Emphasys Centre in collaboration with CitizensACT (NGO) that aims to create an inclusive learning community that provides free lifelong learning opportunities to learners of all ages regardless of their abilities, ethnicity, language, colour and background.

We are very proud to announce that the initiative has been acknowledged as an example of successful skilling actions by the Pact for Skills members across Europe*: 'The Emphasys Centre in Cyprus, in partnership with an NGO, makes their learning hub available during non-working hours to provide opportunities for skills development to vulnerable groups, including young people and people with migrant backgrounds, older people and jobseekers*'.

The Pact for Skills 2022 survey results indicate that companies and workers across Europe have benefited greatly from the EU Pact for skills in boosting skill development. The poll shows that 2 million individuals have benefited from up-and-reskilling initiatives under the Pact. In addition to investing €160 million in skills programmes, Pact members updated or launched 15,500 training modules. For more information, you can check the link here: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3060

The LEARNING HUB initiative follows a human-centred approach, based on which all upskilling activities are customised as per the needs of the target group of learners. Through various approaches such as focus groups, observations, surveys and in collaboration with stakeholders at the community level (such as NGOs, schools, adult centres), the groups of learners and their needs are identified. Among the participants are adults - youth (parents, youth workers, volunteers etc.), people with fewer opportunities such as seniors, NEETs, early school leavers, with migrant background, with disabilities and Special Educational Needs, unemployed, living in rural areas, marginalized etc. and professionals (youth workers, trainers, educators, employees.

The LEARNING HUB offers a wide range of upskilling and re-skilling activities in different topics such as digital transformation, green transition, civic engagement, employability, entrepreneurship, EU values, democracy, media literacy, creativity, cultural awareness etc. All activities aim to empower learners through the acquisition of targeted skills, to raise awareness, to connect, to engage and to enrich their experiences, while ensuring access and participation in the digitalized labour market and society. **The LEARNING HUB** organizes blended interactive workshops, community-based activities and digitally-oriented professional training with hands-on experience offered by 'Emphasys Centre' based on the use of the fully-equipped high-tech STEAM LAB, such as coding, robotics, 3D-modeling and printing, Drones, AI-technologies, VR/AR game design, as well as interactive and engaging community-based activities. The activities of the **LEARNING HUB** are organised mainly at the premises of 'Emphasys Centre' (which is approved by the CY Ministry of Education), but also based on demand, at the stakeholders' premises, such as community centres or schools and at public spaces such as libraries in order to accommodate the learners' preferences, thus reaching out to the target groups at the grassroot level.

Over the past 3 years, apart from the validated professional development courses organised by 'Emphasys Centre', either at the national level or the EU level through the Erasmus+ KA1 Learning Mobility, t**he LEARNING HUB** has trained over 2000 learners, with all kinds of backgrounds.

For more information you can visit the official website at www.emphasyscentre.com or communicate with us at info@emphasyscentre.com