

Strategies to turn your city into a Learning City

Develop effective networking of Third Level institutions and build coalitions of intellectual excellence that can serve the city

Urgently develop programmes of access designed to promote entry to Third Level institutions for late starters and excluded groups

Develop productive linkages and partnerships between various learning providers (including schools and Third Level institutions), businesses and local communities

Develop 'clusters of excellence' especially in the knowledge, biomedical and other areas relevant to economic development

Increase commissioning of specific research where expertise is needed for the Learning City e.g. social economy, community technology application, etc

Set up special units in local institutions to carry out this research

Recognize the important role of Third Level institutions in the promotion, development and application of arts, culture and leisure and encourage them to involve local people in centers for performances and expression in the City

Develop the city website as a shared space for knowledge transfer, matching services and intellectual advocacy and debate

Deploy expertise and resources in order to encourage and facilitate community organizations to create and maintain an internet / digital media presence

Encourage businesses to support and promote Life-Long-Learning through developing learning journeys for their employees and increasing linkages and partnerships with the educational system

Encourage businesses to promote, fund and support a learning culture within business and throughout the community

Focus on Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) and help them to develop learning programmes for all their staff

Increase the flexibility of delivery and design of learning opportunities for all

Remove financial barriers to participation

Intervene earlier to satisfy special needs students

Shift towards intergenerational learning in single learning points in neighbourhoods

Extend range of learning opportunities (not just education and training) in neighbourhoods

Develop recognition and accreditation of a wider range of learning experiences

Utilize the city website to develop an active 'market place' for the exchange of learning information

Use the city website to help citizens plan their learning futures through personal learning plans

Train teachers and learning counselors to help people develop personal learning plans

Improve support services for all people

Improve access to support services for all people

Develop innovative Exit Strategies for Early School Leavers

Invest more in education to avoid crime

Create a new, coherent and integrated learning framework for the City

Enable all learning stakeholders in the City to co-operate and mainstream models of good practices

Ensure that all types of intelligence and learning experiences are recognized and equally valued

Shift the focus from education and training to Lifelong Learning in schools

Shift the focus from education and training to Lifelong Learning in Adult Education colleges

Maximize participation of citizens in Lifelong Learning opportunities

Make educational services and supports more 'customer focused' to facilitate increased access/participation of learners of all ages

Encourage the business community to champion Lifelong Learning in the City

Ensure that adequate supports are available to everyone to engage in learning opportunities

Shift educational focus towards acquisition of skills and personal growth through learning in all learning providers

Demonstrate mutual respect for traditional and non-traditional learning by including all in a Learning Forum and in all initiatives aimed at developing a Learning City

Learn from other 'Learning Cities' through involvement in a range of EU Initiatives

Mobilize existing stakeholders to work together for the implementation of policy and legislation

Increase integration, cooperation and communication between stakeholders through data sharing, networks and joint activities

Use Learning Cities Audit Tool to identify gaps in infrastructure that need to be filled and draw up City Plans to fill them

Commission a City-wide access audit of existing facilities (and action plan) with a view to developing them as a community amenity and focal point in the community for intergenerational learning

Develop "learning services integration" models of good practices (e.g. adult education guidance, local adult learning boards, home school completion clusters, and skills groups)

Develop curriculum and points system in schools to include a clear developmental pathway through the school system.

Increase emphasis on sports and recreation at school

Explore ways of organizing resources for Lifelong Learning that do not limit their availability/application to one institution

Develop targeted programmes of Learning City and Lifelong Learning awareness for each stakeholder group: business, potential learners, providers, schools, communities, parents, state agencies

Bring all providers together around common themes of interest (seminars, conferences, working groups)

Develop a system that facilitates a move towards self directed learning

Develop a holistic mentoring system through a range of complementary learning experiences: 'personal learning journeys'

Promote the importance of early years in developing learning capacities

Use community media, TV, radio, internet, print and photography, lectures, debates, tape, neighbourhood centers, etc., to promote the value of learning

Increase disability awareness training for educators

Encourage assessment of prior learning in city third level institutions

Encourage learning providers to provide learning wherever the learner wants it

Facilitate more consultation with learners of all ages

Align support services (e.g. guidance, counselling, mentoring & psychological services) to operate independently to learning service provision

Insist that Learning Providers focus more on teaching students to learn and build self esteem so that citizens can readily adapt in an increasingly changing environment

Showcase and celebrate best practice in the learning sector

Build a highly visible landmark library for the City to demonstrate the high profile of learning in the City

Improve development of early education and care in partnership with external bodies

Develop channels of participation for young people in learning city matters

Encourage participation of children and young people in defining what sort of Learning City they want

Develop a counselling service to work in support of the traditional Career Counselling services

Involve businesses in the educational system via school / business partnerships

Integrated web-based service for aptitude testing, career planning and mapping learning journeys on city website

Facilitate Third level institutions in partnership with businesses to develop 'clusters of excellence' especially in the knowledge, biomedical and other areas relevant to economic development

Increase Family Learning possibilities

Increase staff/pupil ratios in schools

Introduce of traineeships as an alternative for students who do not wish to remain in the formal education system

Encourage earners to return to learning through the development of various incentives: e.g. part-time/evening/distance learning subsidies, childcare facilities etc.

Give learners ownership of their own learning

Increase in-service training of teachers to adopt methods more appropriate to a knowledge society

Increase schools commitment to the world outside of the school

Increase the number of community schools

Encourage schools to tap into the resources in the community to diversify education of the children

Encourage people in the community to support their schools and encourage schools to find ways of letting them do so

Link schools to several schools in other cultures and countries so that all pupils have the opportunity to work electronically with another pupil
