

Establish Profile of Community Mentors

With your Partner discuss what Community Mentoring means to your country.

ALV - Turkey

Mentoring is a new term for Turkey.

Traditionally parents are your mentors. This tends to be the case regardless of your age your parents would be the first people you would go to for advice.

Mentoring is a task that is considered to be run by the government.

There are over 100 NGOs who are mentors and what they are doing is mentoring , however in Turkey this is a new term and may not be called mentoring even though the action is.

Mentoring is a rising issue; with more complications in life it will be required more. Circumstances are always changing, for example with the increased number of refugees arriving.

Teleorman - Romania

Three issues

1. Types of Mentoring – Counselling new teachers with a view to being in the ‘Teachers Community’
Parents mentoring
Students Mentoring
2. Specific Issues – Pedagogical approach, building developing relationships, adapt to the needs of the local school/community. Relationships eg parent/child, parent/teacher, disorganized families, financial issues that may prevent school attendance
3. Students whose parents are abroad, counselling regarding career, considering talent of student , students with disabilities integrating in the community

Profile of Mentor –

- Professionalism
- Trustworthy
- Good Communicator
- Flexibility
- Involved, yet objective
- Impartial and detached

ACDC Romania

There are over 200 Rural communities in Romania and they can be very isolated geographically.

Community mentoring in these areas works better if the mentor comes from within the community.

ACDC promotes community development and social inclusion through ICT

- e-inclusion

Issues we deal with include

1. Rural Population
2. Low Income
3. Low Education
4. Roma Population
5. Isolation

The mentor should come within the community and be able to relate to the problems. They should have very good communication skills and patience.

Hatfield - London

Community Mentoring is about having and developing positive role models, to give inspiration to people from the community who are isolated. It is about help ing people discover themselves and build their identity.

The mentor doesn't give advice, they are more like an objective supporter, challenging when they need to be. Community mentoring is about targeting people who need access to free professional services.

In KEL it is about understanding the needs of our community i.e. ethnic minorities, young mums, disabled and adults with mild mental health issues and matching them with empathic individuals, who understand, appreciate the situation of their mentees and who are NOT judgmental.

Kilcooley Womens Centre

The community of Kilcooley Womens Centre is made up of

1. Women
2. Social deprivation
3. Poor economic background
4. Issues left by the Northern Ireland Conflict
5. Poor educational achievement
6. Young Mums

Community Mentors tend to be volunteers, local and from the community so they can empathise with the issues. They will be impartial in order to let the mentee develop. Mentors can be peers or community workers.

Oz Zips

Oz Zips mainly focuses on the Roma issue and the issue of elderly in retirement mainly because social pressure in our region is strongly dominating. In addition we work with the younger generation and motivate them with inventive workshops to make them aware that the future is in their hands.

Community workers can be mentors and new mentors can be created from within, to make peer-to-peer mentors.

Identify Skills and Abilities to be a Community Mentor

Top 10 Skills and Abilities agreed

Note – the partners in have produced the basis of this in The Community Mentoring Good Practice Guide as part of the Grundvig Project.

1. Empathy/Caring
2. Non Judgmental/without prejudice
3. Inspirational /Role Model
4. Good listening skills
5. Open Minded/tolerant
6. Problem solving/positive can do attitude/objective supporter
7. Similar experience, background/life experience
8. Adaptable to Context
9. Trustworthy/Confider
10. Self Aware

Design a common profile that matches all partner countries

Community mentoring has no statutory or hidden agenda in conflict with the mentee's own progression. Community mentors are only concerned to provide confidential, non-judgmental, positive and motivating time and space for people. The value lies within the diversity and equality of the mentors and equality of the mentors with their mentees, their base in the community and their desire to address social issues.

The value of mentoring lies within the person/personality of the mentor coupled with advanced interpersonal skills and their ability to convey a totally focused interest in their mentee, their needs, hopes and aspirations. The potential outcomes from an effective mentoring relationship are tremendous.