

Lifelong Learning

Module 4



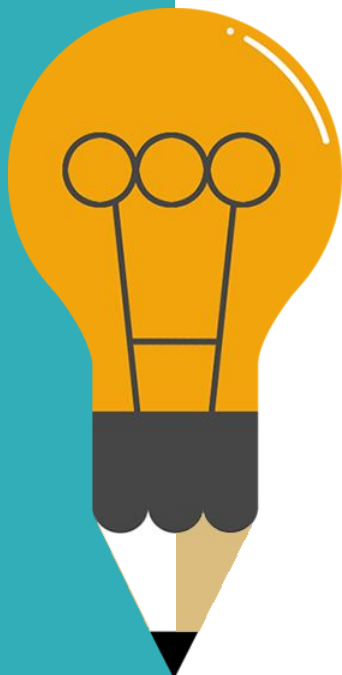
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Introduction



In an ever-changing world, continuous learning (formal and informal) is more important than ever. This module wishes to briefly introduce the reader to the concept of Lifelong Learning and its importance in keeping our Minds Open.



What

Is Lifelong Learning?

Lifelong Learning

Defined by the European Parliament



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(red. Lifelong Learning is...) all general education, vocational education and training, non-formal education and informal learning undertaken throughout life, resulting in an improvement in knowledge, skills and competences within a personal, civic, social and/or employment-related perspective, including the provision of counselling and guidance services.



[REPORT on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an integrated action programme in the field of lifelong learning | A6-0267/2005 | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

Lifelong Learning

According to the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)



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Learning is not limited to a single, specific phase in life, that of the years at school, but also happens in different contexts, over the course of a lifetime.



[European Parliament |
Lifelong learning
\(europa.eu\)](#)

Lifelong Learning through the years



Some of the contributions to the concept Lifelong Learning

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OECD
Lifelong Learning for
all



European Union
Launch of Lifelong
Learning Program

1972



1996



2000



2007



Now

UNESCO
Learning to be

European Union
Memorandum on
Lifelong Learning

UNESCO
Embracing a culture of
Lifelong Learning



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Why

Is Lifelong Learning relevant?

Lifelong Learning

The UNESCO institution for Lifelong Learning, was established shortly after the second world war. The aim of the institute, back then, was to improve relations between people and nations through international understanding.

Through the years, the aim of the institute shifted to focus more on education and in 1972 the pivotal report “Learning for all” was published. Some of the main points are presented in the following slide.

Although, more than 40 years have past since the publication, many of the main points are still relevant today. We continue to live in a world, where crisis, inequality and inhumane actions takes place on a daily basis.



Learning to be (1972)

- Current state of the world can lead to **division, inequality and dehumanization**.
- Human beings must be able to recognise the global consequences of individual behaviour, to understand how to prioritise and to assume their share of the common responsibility for the fate of humanity.
- If people are to use their intelligence to bring about change, they need to be aware of themselves, their goals and their strengths.
- They can only gain the **necessary psychological confidence through education**. Education must be easily accessible to all.
- **The goal of education is to enable humans to be themselves.**
- Encourage young people and adults to have a lifelong desire to learn and develop their skills.

UNESCO

Learning to be: the world of education today and tomorrow
- UNESCO Digital Library



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Lifelong Learning

Defined by the European Parliament



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*The conclusions of the Lisbon European Council confirm that the move towards lifelong learning must accompany a successful transition to a knowledge-based economy and society... (red. Lifelong Learning is...) about much more than economics. Lifelong learning also promotes the goals and ambitions of European countries to become more **inclusive, tolerant and democratic**, promising a Europe where citizens have the opportunity and ability to realise their ambitions and participate in building a better society.*



[A Memorandum on Lifelong Learning
\(unesco.org\)](https://unesco.org)

Lifelong Learning

The Memorandum highlights both the economic, social and democratic value of Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Learning have many benefits for both the individual and society. Some of these benefits are listed in the following slide.

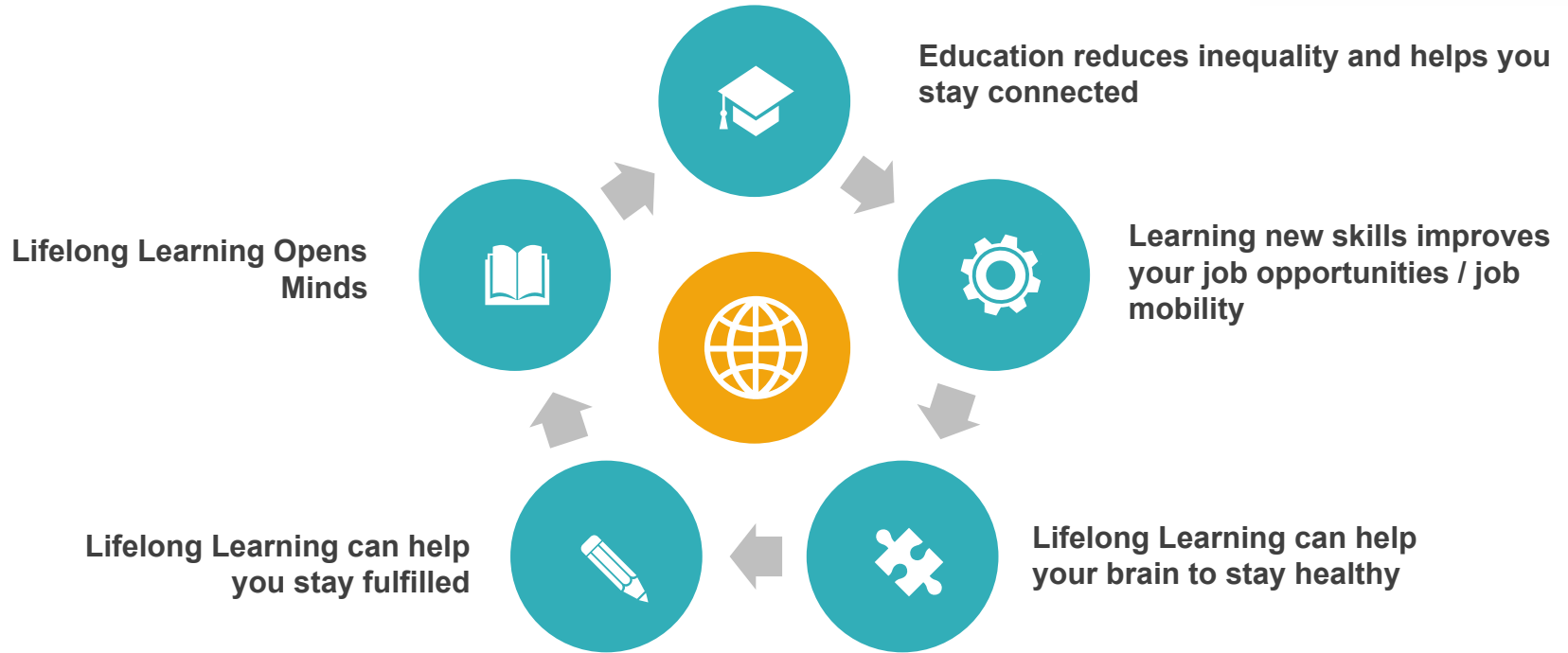


Lifelong Learning

Benefits of Lifelong Learning



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Open Minds

Does Lifelong Learning Open Minds?

Does Lifelong Learning Open Minds?

The short answer is YES! Multiple studies have found that, although adult education is shown to be less impactful than learning in school, it is proven to benefit communities and society as well as individuals. Among many things, the participation in adult education contributes to positive changes in behaviours and attitudes.



Opening Minds

Lifelong Learning impacts behavior and attitude



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Research shows:

- Adult education **increase racial tolerance**. It does not appear to change attitudes of those with extreme racist view, but it seems to prevent individuals from adopting such an extremist attitude.
- People involved in adult education are less likely to be dissatisfied in midlife, more likely to be optimistic, less likely to use health services and more likely to vote.
- Learning can promote societal cohesion and strengthen citizenship □ values of **tolerance, understanding and respect**.
- On a **community level**, education leads to community cohesion, low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, and a high level of trust.

Opening Minds

Lifelong Learning impacts behavior and attitude



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To summarize:

Lifelong Learning has many benefits for both the individual and society.

As well as benefiting society from an economic point of view, lifelong learning also helps to foster tolerance and equality between people.

It creates individuals who make their voices heard in democratic processes and who actively make choices about what they want for the future, for themselves and for society.

By positively changing people's attitudes and behaviour, education can make our society a more tolerant and accepting place for us all.

If you want to learn more:

[Learning to be: the world of education today and tomorrow - UNESCO Digital Library](#)

[A Memorandum on Lifelong Learning \(unesco.org\)](#)

[Embracing a culture of lifelong learning | UIL \(unesco.org\)](#)

[\(PDF\) The Social and Personal Benefits of Learning: a summary of key research findings \(researchgate.net\)](#)





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Thank you