

Formal, Informal and Non-formal learning

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong learning (UIL in Hamburg/DE) endorses the following definitions as used by the European Commission¹:

Formal Learning –

Occurs as a result of experiences in an education or training institution, with structured learning objectives, learning time and support, leading to certification. Formal learning is intentional from the learner's perspective.

Informal Learning –

Results from daily life activities related to work, family or leisure. It is not structured (in terms of learning objectives, learning time or learning support) and typically does not lead to certification. Informal learning may be intentional but in most cases it is non-intentional (or "incidental"/random).

Non-formal Learning –

Is not provided by an education or training institution and typically does not lead to certification.

It is, however, important to recognize that these terms cannot be definitive. UIL² stress that:

There is increasing acknowledgement that learning takes place on a continuum and that the boundaries between different forms of education and learning are porous. Therefore, the definitions of the terms quoted above are not intended to suggest a rigid separation between them.

¹ From ERASMUS+ Project titled VALMOPRIS lead by NCL in Scotland (2015/2017)

² In Hamburg, UIL has a special department with a library focusing on Education in prison

What is a “COMPETENCE” ?

A competence is the ability to apply a synthesis of

- Knowledge AND
- Skills AND
- Attitudes

Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes



KNOWLEDGE is

- Know where ...
- Know when ...
- Know how ...
- Know why ...
- Know that ...

Skills



SKILLS are

- Perceiving ...
- Applying, imitating ...
- Deciding, selecting ...
- Discovering, acting independently ...
- Developing, transferring ...



Attitude:

ATTITUDES are

- Incorporation ...
- Self-regulation ...
- Appreciation ...
- Perspective change ...
- Self-orientation, neutral ...