

APPENDIX I: Lifelong Learning in the context of the festival

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The European PlaNorm for learning mobility defines learning mobility as the mobility of young people (transnational, regional or online) undertaken freely and voluntarily for a period of time and deliberately organized for educational purposes, to have an impact on the local community or to develop new competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes or values) to acquire. It includes various project formats and activities and can be carried out in informal or non-formal educational settings. At first glance, festivals don't necessarily fit into this definition in the classic sense.

The festival scene has constantly evolved with increased mobility and technological advances. This applies above all to the European area, where the borders have increasingly been abolished by developments such as the Schengen Agreement.

International travel has become more accessible with cheap flights and an increasingly dense rail and bus network. Thanks to massive internet access and online technologies, it is also possible to reach festivals, get information and buy tickets from the comfort of your own home, months in advance. In short, festivals also change their visitor profile and are accessible to people from different countries.

The result is that festivals offer more than just the classic sense; while music and entertainment are still the main destinations, festival environments are increasingly becoming an experience that offers international interactions, values and themes that go far beyond the music industry. Environment, anti-racism and active citizenship are just a few examples of values and themes that festivals embody today.

So a young person planning to go to a festival in another country also goes through a non-formal and informal learning process. Informal learning is anything we do outside of organized classes to gain significant knowledge, skills, or understanding. It takes place either individually or in cooperation with other people. An exciting aspect of informal learning is that while it can be intentional, in most cases it is unintentional, accidental, or ad hoc ([Lind and Bueter-Menke 2012](#)). Anyone who has been to a festival recently will immediately recognize that festivals offer valuable learning opportunities to develop your skills. Competencies are simply defined as a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes. The European Commission has identified so-called key competences, i.e. the knowledge, skills and attitudes that every person needs for personal fulfillment and development, employability, social inclusion and active citizenship. There are eight defined by the European Commission Key Competencies:





WE LOVE GREEN BY MAHDI ARIDJ

The festival experience offers individuals the opportunity to develop these skills to varying degrees. When you talk about such an experience, you are not just talking about the festival days. It ranges from planning travel to a festival in another country to returning and sharing with friends and family about the experience. Traveling to another country and spending time with people from different cultures and countries living in the same environment for a long period of time offers valuable opportunities for interaction, exchange and learning about other cultures, peoples and socio-political issues. It allows one to plan, research and budget for expenses, convert to other currencies if necessary, to speak different languages and to share these experiences with others after their return. In addition, many festivals offer workshops, provide space for information stands and organize activities on various social, cultural, ecological and political issues outside of music in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In this way, the individual can participate in non-formal learning activities and be part of informal learning throughout the experience.

Festivals are no longer just music, party and fun. They are essential and unique experiences that offer all participants, listeners and volunteers alike the opportunity to develop their skills, change their attitudes and expand and share their knowledge. In short, they enable you to learn.

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