INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS IN INFORMAL LEARNING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN BULGARIA

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of informal learning is to develop the intellect, culture, personal qualities of man. They are important primarily for personal realization both in the profession and in life.

The main institutions responsible for education in Bulgaria are the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Employment Agency, the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training, but employers' organizations also play a key role. Two strategic documents that are relevant to informal education and young people in Bulgaria are particularly important. National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 is the basic document developed by the Ministry of Education and Science, which draws attention to informal learning. It is pointed out that in Bulgaria the popularity and recognition of this education is limited.
In the research are used common methods of scientific knowledge, namely: theoretical analysis (primary and secondary), synthesis, comparison; content analysis of international and national programs and regulatory documents, opportunities for using interactive learning in informal education; observation; media monitoring and content analysis based on an empirical material from press clippings of media publications on projects funded by the European Union. The method of personal observation was used to gain an authentic idea and to assess the status of informal learning for young people at risk of social exclusion in Bulgaria.
RESULTS

- Comprehensive analysis and impact assessment of informal learning for young people at risk of social exclusion in Bulgaria.
- Identification of innovative changes in the methods of working with young people in the field of informal education.
- Outline prospects for the development of informal education in Bulgaria in the context of "good practices" in the European Union.
- The research can be useful both for those interested in the theoretical aspects of informal education for young people at risk of social exclusion and for practitioners.
Informal learning in Bulgaria as a factor for prevention of social exclusion of young people at risk

- Young people in Bulgaria are most vulnerable of severe material deprivation compared to their peers from other EU countries. 39% of Bulgarian citizens between the ages of 12 and 17 and 35% between 18 and 24 live in deprivation in 2016, compared to the EU average of 10% and 5% in countries such as Austria, Denmark, Germany, and The Netherlands.

- This is clear from a report by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) on inequalities in young people’s access to information and support services. The data cover the period until 2016, which is the last year for which there are complete data allowing comparison between all EU countries. Bulgaria ranks second in the EU in terms of poverty and social exclusion among young people (48% of young people are at risk), with a higher proportion only in Romania (52%). Between 2011 and 2016, the perception of social exclusion declined among people aged 18-24 in the EU. The biggest improvement is in Cyprus and Estonia. In 2016, the perception of social exclusion was lower than the EU average in the countries of Northern and Western Europe. In 2016, it was the highest in Bulgaria.
CONCLUSIONS

There are defined several very important conclusions, based on the research:
• Informal education is successfully applied to work with young people at risk;
• The European Union promotes informal learning through various programs such as the Youth in Action Program and makes it a goal;
• Innovative methods as volunteering, mentoring and mobility are applicable in informal learning;
• Informal learning allows the use of both classical and innovative teaching methods;
• Specific methods and tools are also applied in informal learning, including volunteering, mentoring and mobility.
• Informal learning is successfully implemented in Bulgaria and promotes "lifelong learning".
Thank you for your attention!