

Mission statement and educational mandate of IKAB-Bildungswerk e.V.

IKAB-Bildungswerk pursues the idea of a democratic European civil society where a concept of justice based on human rights provides the binding rules for cohabitation in society. As a binding concept of justice, human rights are the paradigm of democratic theory providing the foundations for the basic right of every human to be equal and simultaneously different. It is the goal and task of IKAB-Bildungswerk to systematically strive to achieve the European civil society through education and learning and to win many partners for this aim.

Intercultural political education

According to our understanding, political education can induce and encourage reciprocity between people's daily lives and those political decision structures and processes which have an influence on and relevant shaping power over these lives. It can empower people to participate actively and competently in these shaping processes and as such take an influence on politics. According to our understanding, political education must be intercultural political education. It can contribute to empowering young people in particular to achieve inclusive socialisation in culturally and religiously pluralistic societies. Intercultural political education can contribute to giving a concrete shape to the vision of a democratic European civil society.

Characteristics and strengths of non-formal education

Our seminars, projects, and transnational mobility measures offer youngsters and young people a learning environment which allows them to practise democratic behaviour, develop a new motivation to learn, and to foster ego strength, a spirit of personal initiative, solidarity, and a sense of responsibility. In this context, personal, social and intercultural competences are paramount, as well as the competence of learning to learn. In the context of political education and non-formal learning, IKAB-Bildungswerk uses the term 'competence gain' in a very broad scope: It implies participation and democratic citizenship. It also implies skills such as cooperation, personal initiative, solidarity, and a sense of responsibility – for oneself and within society. Developing and promoting these competences serves individual development and promotion – with positive repercussions on future occupational training or further education.

Political education in non-formal and informal contexts can facilitate new learning experiences for all young people, putting the focus on their resources, skills and abilities. This is a participative approach to learning, based on voluntary involvement and particularly closely aligned to the learning needs and capabilities of young people. The benefits of non-formal and informal learning opportunities have been demonstrated many times, above all for disadvantaged young people. Our association

IKAB e.V. has been contributing to this impact assessment with research of its own and commissioned studies for many years.

Our target groups

Since its foundation, the Bildungswerk has stayed true to committing its work in particular to young people who – for different reasons – have ‘fewer opportunities’, to youths with a migrant background, young refugees, and young people in inter-organisational and company-based training or integration projects. Another target group consists of young people who get involved in society as volunteers.

One important target group is also formed by people who work with these young people or are involved in seminar and project work. They act as multipliers and serve as intermediaries to the young participants. They are the cooperation partners for political educational practice and are involved in the organisational structure of the Bildungswerk for this reason.