

Mentoring for a better European future!

European Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring - 2019

“Successful people never reach their goals alone ..”

Can you think of somebody in your life outside of your family that has been crucial for reaching your goals the way you did today? Maybe a teacher, a friendly neighbor, your employer who recognized your qualities and talents; an involved person who helped you to overcome your doubts and uncertainties, who gave you confidence and the strength just when you needed it, maybe even opened the doors to your recent career. That person was your mentor.

Advocates for mentoring

Let us introduce ourselves: we are the practitioners and representatives of mentoring programmes in Europe. We would like you to Meet and Match with us. We are here to advocate for mentoring in order to realize an easier and wider spread access to evidence-based mentoring programmes for more EU-citizens. Especially for target groups at risk. We ask the European Parliament to invest in mentoring programmes as part of the Post EU2020 strategy.

Status of mentoring in EU

In the last decade, mentoring programmes that originated in the US, have gained more and more popularity in Europe. These modern programmes are usually centered around vulnerable groups like youth at risk and migrants. One of the motors of this expansion is the European Center of Evidence-Based Mentoring (ECEBMentoring). It has been a base for exchange of knowledge and support for at least 700 involved practitioners of mentoring programmes in 14 EU countries and a collection point for the latest research findings. The European Center of Evidence-Based Mentoring plays a guiding role and as a guardian of the quality level of mentoring in Europe.

European problems ask for mentoring solutions

According to “the Reflection paper on the social dimension of Europe”, a statement by the European Commission pertaining Social Policy of the EU until 2025 (26th of April 2017, page 20 and 22) it is made clear what European citizens wish for the future of Europe: “.. a society that is built on equal chances, where every citizen gets opportunities for a good start, a chance in life to conquer difficulties, to realize own potential and achieve personal goals”. The statement outlines that EU citizens want these goals to be reached by “investing in children, taking care that they get a fair chance in life by investing in life long learning and education skills!” These statements exactly reflect the mission of evidence-based mentoring!

Our purpose today at this Meet and Match event is to advocate this mission and to illustrate the effectiveness of existing evidence-based mentoring programmes in Europe in the last decade.

It is already clear that mentoring programmes would have the support of EU citizens. We challenge the European Parliament and members of the Commissions to look at European problems from the perspective of mentoring solutions!



PUTTING RESEARCH into ACTION

Why does mentoring belong on the European agenda?

1 | *Because mentoring prevents early school drop-out*

Best practices and research show that long term personal mentoring providing supportive attention by a non-familial mentor is effective in helping adolescents at risk to attain necessary life skills, to regain interest in school and in personal education, and a development of basic qualifications needed for work.

Mentoring can prevent adolescents dropping-out early from school and prepare the student for entering and completing a higher education.

2 | *Because mentoring tackles inequity of career opportunities*

Mentoring can offer major impact on individuals to create educational chances and life long learning opportunities, for citizens at risk like youth from lower income families or migrants that enter the EU and have to integrate. Mentoring can be one of the keys to conquer the inequity in career opportunities between citizens from different layers of society .

3 | *Because mentoring improves social mobility*

Recent Research shows that adolescents from low-income families in America have a strongly reduced access to mentoring programmes. These lower income families often prefer to limit support within their close circle of families or friends. An experienced outside help and effective role model is lacking. (Elizabeth B. Raposa, Lance D. Erickson, Matthew Hagler and Jean E. Rhodes, Am J Community Psychol 0:1–13 2018.)

When schools, social workers or other closely related professionals are equipped to assist these families to make the step towards support by mentoring, their chance for social mobility can be improved.

These and other findings about the effect of mentoring are merely based on American studies. More European studies are needed, based on specific situations in the different countries of the European Union.

4 | *Because mentoring is cost-effective*

Mentoring is an effective and cost effective tool for national and local governments to create future contributors to a healthy European economy.

Our mission: make mentoring a right for every citizen!

