

GENERATIONS IN ACTION: SUCCESSFUL FORMATS FOR ADULTS' AND SENIORS' PARTICIPATION IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

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HOBVERSE
Kurk savo istoriją

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Who is in the room?



[Menti.com](https://menti.com)

code 5907 9003

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Defining Non-formal education

Learning beyond the classroom

What is it? Structured, intentional learning outside formal schooling.

Key characteristics:

- Flexible & voluntary
- Learner-focused and hands-on
- Often tied to community, social skills, or practical application

The goal: Empowerment, integration, and lifelong civic participation.

Open Badges as a connector

The problem: NFE learning often goes unrecognised

A solution: Open Badges - digital credentials that recognise learning and can validate skills.

What they do:

- Provide trusted evidence of specific experiences, skills or competencies
- Celebrate achievements
- Boost self-esteem and employment chances
- Create a common language to connect diverse sectors

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The biggest challenge

network
digitale **inclusie**



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4 successful formats from The Netherlands

- **ExpeditieRED:** Water safety & integration
- Rotterdam: **Digital inclusion**
- **Praktijkleren Loont:** Work-based learning (skills validation)
- **Community Initiatives:** Co-creation & civic power

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Case 1: ExpeditieRED

The Challenge: Newcomers to the Netherlands (adults/seniors) lack watersafety knowledge.

A solution: National Volunteering program for young people

How it works:

- Trains young migrants (mentors) who understand cultural context.
- Mentors guide older migrants in water risk and Dutch swimming culture

Result: A life-saving skill delivered through peer-to-peer, culturally sensitive training

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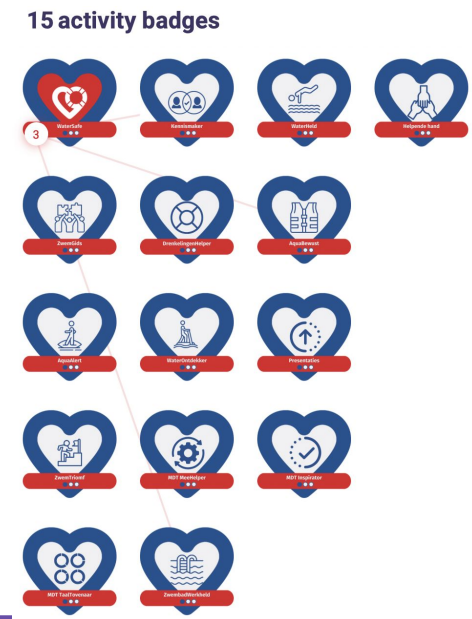
ExpeditieRED & recognition

Training structure: 40 hours of practical training divided into 5 tasks

Badge system:

- Badge per activity (e.g. Water Hazard Awareness)
- Final Playlist badge and certificate

Impact: Turns a mentee into a recognised community expert in integration



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Case 2: Rotterdam, digital inclusion

The Challenge: Digital exclusion for seniors

A solution: Low-threshold, trusted support in the public library and other local organisations

How it works:

- Ontwikkelplein (Development square): Central hub for skills
- Inloopspreekuren: Free, no-appointment help with devices and internet
- Learning to do (e.g. email, Whatsapp). Learning to create (e.g. Makerspace010 with 3D printers)

Result: Empowers older citizens to remain connected and independent.
The library removes barriers: free, local and non-judgemental

Digital inclusion & recognition

Training structure: Training in the Library or other local non-formal programmes

Badge system:

- Badge per training course
- Final Playlist badge and certificate

Impact: Adults build badge portfolio which is helpful for employability



Case 3: Praktijkleren Loont

The Challenge: Adults with extensive practical skills but no formal paper qualification

The 3rd Learning Pathway: Learning by demonstrating competence on the job

Process:

- Focus on what the worker can do in practice.
- The employer and assessor manage quality

Result: A Praktijkverklaring (Formal Practical Statement) recognised vocational proof.

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Recognition for experience



The practical statement is supported by a digital skills badge portfolio

Benefits:

- Detailed and flexible proof of competence
- Supports sustainable career development (LifeLong Learning)
- Incentives employers to invest in their workforce (via subsidy routes)

The message: Skills earned matter more than where they were earned

Case 4: Community in action

Focus: Seniors and adults as community builders and leaders

Gilde Plus (Eindhoven): A decade-long success

- Shared flex-work and knowledge hub
- 1500 unique users, connecting people to jobs

Stadouders (City parents): Adults supporting all children in the neighbourhood

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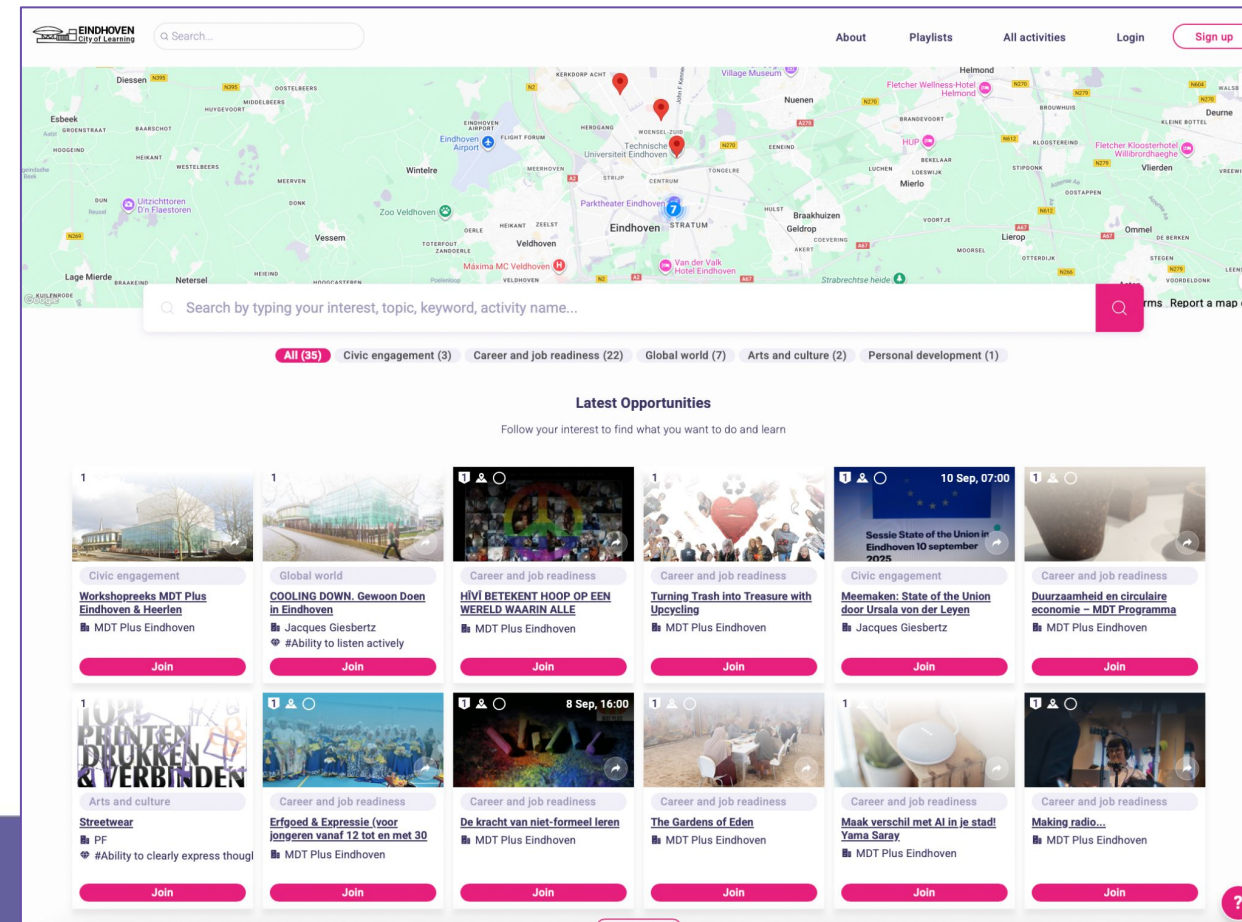
Badges as recognition

The Action: Citizens rallied to save a vacant building for cultural use.

The vision:

- Create a culture anchor for the entire community: music, dance, events - for children, youth and the elderly.

Impact: Proves that NFE infrastructure can be driven by the passion.



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Pillars of successful NFE

Purpose driven: Must solve a tangible problem
(safety, exclusion, formal gap)

Low Threshold: Accessible where people already are
(library, work, community)

Intergenerational: Encourage young and old to
learn from and with each other

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The value of recognition

Don't let learning go unseen:

- Formalising NFE gives learners confidence
- Open Badges: this flexible tool needed to document diverse, modern learning pathways.

When we invest in NFE for adults and seniors, we invest in a resilient skilled, and participating society.

Ačiū už dėmesį - Questions?

Pranešėjo kontaktai

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Want to work with recognition via Open Badges in Vilnius or Lithuania?

Contact info@awero.org