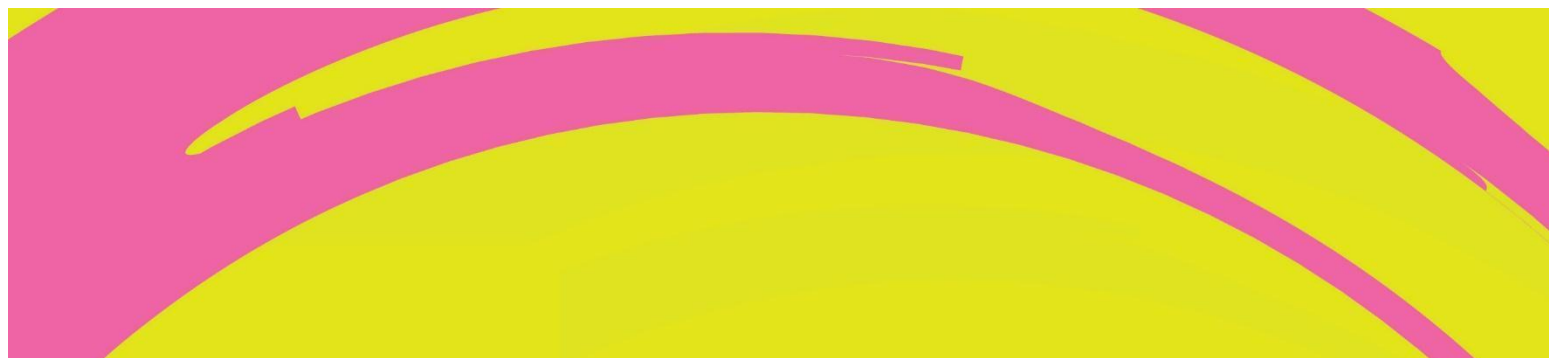


# **WP2 - Social Action Toolkit**

**Social Action Supporting  
Employability Skills Development:  
Learner Handout**





## Social Action Toolkit

### How-To Guide

#### **Title: Social Action Supporting Employability Skills Development: How-To Guide**

#### **Introduction:**

Social action can play a significant role in supporting employability skills (also known as “soft skills”) development by providing individuals with opportunities to enhance their abilities, gain relevant experience, and develop essential qualities that employers seek. Here are some ways in which social action can contribute to employability skills development:

- 1. Leadership Skills:** Engaging in social action often involves taking on leadership roles, whether it's organizing a community project or leading a team of volunteers. This experience can help individuals develop leadership skills, such as decision-making, communication, and problem-solving, which are highly valued in the workplace.
- 2. Communication Skills:** Social action requires effective communication with diverse groups of people, including team members, beneficiaries, and stakeholders. By participating in social action, individuals can improve their verbal and written communication skills, making them more adept at conveying ideas and collaborating with others in professional settings.
- 3. Time Management:** Balancing social action commitments alongside other responsibilities, such as work or studies, requires effective time management. Developing this skill during social action can translate into better time management in a professional context, enhancing productivity and efficiency.
- 4. Adaptability and Flexibility:** Social action often involves dealing with unexpected challenges and situations, requiring individuals to be adaptable and flexible in their approach. These traits are valuable in the workplace, where change is constant, and the ability to adapt is essential.
- 5. Teamwork and Collaboration:** Participating in social action projects frequently involves working within a team environment. By collaborating with others to achieve common goals, individuals can cultivate strong teamwork skills, which are highly sought after by employers.
- 6. Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking Skills:** Social action initiatives may require individuals to identify and address community issues creatively. It requires to build capacity to analyze situations, identify challenges, and propose effective solutions. Through this experience, participants can develop problem-solving skills, which are crucial in finding innovative solutions to challenges in a professional setting.





**7. Initiative and Self-Motivation:** Engaging in social action demonstrates initiative and self-motivation, as individuals voluntarily choose to participate and make a positive impact on their communities. This proactivity is attractive to employers seeking candidates who can take initiative and drive projects forward.

**8. Networking Skills:** Social action brings individuals into contact with a wide range of people, including community leaders, professionals, and volunteers. These networking opportunities can lead to valuable connections in the professional world, potentially opening doors to job opportunities and career advancement.

**9. Emotional Intelligence:** Social action often involves interacting with people from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. This exposure can enhance emotional intelligence, making individuals more empathetic, understanding, and culturally sensitive, which are critical qualities in a diverse work environment.

**10. Work Ethic:** Engaging in social action showcases an individual's dedication to making a positive impact on society. Employers value candidates with a strong work ethic, as it reflects their commitment and dedication to their roles and responsibilities.

### Materials Needed:

- Flip chart paper
- Markers
- Arts and Crafts materials
- Food and snacks for the young people

<p><b>Step 1: Identify different examples of social action</b></p>	<p>Hand out a <b>List of examples of youth social actions</b> (see infographics to this chapter) to youth and invite them to make mark those that they would be attracted to join.</p> <p>In case they have not found a social action on the list that interests them, invite them to add it.</p>
<p><b>Step 2: Explain the types of skills that can be developed through social action</b></p>	<p>Ask the youth a question: What skills for your CV and for your interviews can you develop through social action?</p> <p>Communication, empathy, teamwork,</p>





	<p>passion, resilience – can youth think of any others? You can use the list of employability skills below for inspiration.</p>
<b>Step 3: Group sharing</b>	<p>Divide the young people into smaller groups and invite them to share what they have found out for themselves.</p>
<b>Step 4: Use social action to plan for your dream job</b>	<p>Get students to think about their dream jobs and the next steps they'd need to take to achieve them. Spend a few minutes getting them to map out each step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The core transferable skills required</li><li>• How these skills can be developed via other social action-related activities</li></ul> <p><b><u>Here's an example:</u></b></p> <p>My dream job: <b>Journalist</b></p> <p><b>Key next steps:</b></p> <p>Pass the university exams</p> <p>Complete a degree in journalism and communications</p> <p>Get an internship in local media</p> <p><b>Core transferable skills required:</b></p> <p>writing skills, research skills, interviewing skills, critical thinking, resilience, time management, team work, communication, networking skills, curiosity and initiative, digital and multimedia skills, ethics and integrity</p> <p><b>What social action can help?</b></p>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Starting a community newsletter or blog</b> about local events, issues, and stories that matter to youth and their peers.</li><li>● <b>Organizing a media literacy workshop</b> for other youth to raise awareness about critical thinking when consuming news and information.</li><li>● <b>Creating a social media campaign</b> to highlight important social issues or promote local events.</li><li>● <b>Starting a podcast</b> to discuss relevant topics, interview community members, or share inspiring stories.</li><li>● <b>Establishing a community journalism club</b> at school or in the neighborhood. Members can collaborate on reporting local news and events, allowing them to learn from each other and build teamwork skills.</li><li>● <b>Offering to write press releases</b> or create content for nonprofit organizations.</li></ul>
<b>Step 5: Final sharing</b>	Invite individuals to share their insights from both individual exercises and peer group sharing.





## Annex 1: Infographics - List of examples of youth social actions - link to CANVA:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFppbe8abo/dCL7kfJj0BBU4UXgI9\\_f2O/edit](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFppbe8abo/dCL7kfJj0BBU4UXgI9_f2O/edit)

### Conclusion:

Social action helps to develop a range of core transferable skills such as communication, leadership, resilience and problem solving to help young people move forward into the world of work and showcase examples on their CV. Social action can be a great way to give students access to hands-on work opportunities. Evidence suggests that taking part in social action boosts employability by expanding social and professional networks. A trial found that young people taking part in social action were: 3x more likely to be invited to an interview if volunteering was on their CV and 10 % more likely to be successful in an interview (The Behavioural Insights Team, 2016).

### Additional Resources:

#### Outward Bound International

Outward Bound International represents the global network of Outward Bound Schools across the world. All founded on the same educational philosophy that by having the opportunity to develop skills such as; resilience, self-confidence, compassion, understanding of others and environmental responsibility we can learn to thrive. There is also a [Czech](#) and [Slovak](#) branch. Check the list of all 34 countries [here](#).

<https://www.outwardbound.net/>

#### Association of Non-Formal Education

Association of Non-Formal Education (ANEV) is a Czech organisation created in January 2013 as an initiative of people previously involved in the European Commission's programme Youth in Action in various roles. Youth in Action was designed to support non-formal education of young people between 2007-2013, then it was transformed into Erasmus +: Youth. ANEV group experienced youth workers, trainers, project managers or coaches. They support quality of youth work by educating youth workers, bringing innovations and European trends in non-formal learning and by combining approaches of non-formal and formal education. Non-formal learning means to learn voluntarily, intentionally and from experience.

<https://www.anev.cz/en/>





## Barclays LifeSkills

LifeSkills works with teachers, parents and businesses to help young people:

- Build a job-hunting toolbox

Find out how social media can supercharge a CV, get tips for creating strong covering letters and LinkedIn profiles, and practice interview techniques.

- Identify skills

Interactive challenges help identify and develop personal skills – with useful advice on selling these skills to employers.

- Gain experience

Offered by businesses, organised by teachers and driven by young people – by working through LifeSkills online, they'll unlock valuable work experience.

For teachers, educators and youth workers they offer free curriculum-linked lesson plans to help teachers inspire their students to build the vital skills they'll need.

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/>

### Resources for this unit:

Barclays Social Action Toolkit

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/help-others/lessons/social-action-toolkit/>

National Youth Social Action Survey 2019

[Normal dot \(Rev02 January 2019\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384421/normal_dot_rev02_january_2019.pdf)

Does social action help develop the skills young people need to succeed in adult life?

<https://www.bi.team/blogs/does-social-action-help-develop-the-skills-young-people-need-to-succeed-in-adult-life/>





## Case Study

<b>Module Title</b>	Introduction to Social Action		
<b>Case Study Title</b>	Outward Bound International		
<b>Type of resource</b>	Case Study	<b>Type of learning</b>	Self-directed learning
<b>Duration of Activity (in minutes)</b>	90-180 minutes	<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand how social action can help youth develop their employability skills.</li> <li>• Identify key employability skills or “soft skills” that can be developed through social action.</li> <li>• Develop strategies to attract and engage youth to social action.</li> </ul>
<b>Aim of Activity</b>	<p>The #IWILL movement is a campaign aimed at encouraging young people to get involved in social action and make a positive impact on their communities. It originated in the United Kingdom and has since gained momentum across various countries and regions.</p> <p>By studying their approach, youth workers can gain insights into what a high quality social action looks like and what benefits it brings to youth employability skills development.</p>		







	<p>Overall, the #IWILL movement serves as a powerful tool for youth workers to enhance their programming, support youth development, and contribute to positive social change through collective action. By tapping into the resources and opportunities offered by the movement, youth workers can better equip young people to become active, engaged, and responsible citizens.</p>
<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>The #IWILL movement was launched in 2013 by Step Up To Serve, a charity in the UK that seeks to increase the number of young people engaged in social action. The campaign focuses on empowering young individuals, aged 10 to 20, to take part in volunteering, fundraising, and other forms of community service.</p> <p>The name "#IWILL" emphasizes the individual commitment of young people to make a difference and highlights their determination to contribute to society in meaningful ways. By getting involved in social action, young participants can develop essential life skills, gain valuable experiences, and positively impact the lives of others.</p>
<p><b>Challenge</b></p>	<p>The #IWILL movement operates through various partner organizations, schools, colleges, and youth groups that promote and support youth-led initiatives. The campaign's core message centres around the idea that every young person has the potential to be a force for positive change and that collective action can bring about meaningful transformations in local communities and beyond.</p> <p><b>The movement is built on six principles known as the #IWILL pledges:</b></p> <p><b>Lead:</b> Young people are encouraged to take the lead in planning and executing social action projects.</p> <p><b>Connect:</b> The movement emphasizes the importance of collaborating with others to achieve common goals and create a wider impact.</p> <p><b>Learn:</b> Participants are encouraged to use their social action experiences as opportunities for personal development and learning.</p>






	<p><b>Give:</b> Young people are motivated to give their time, energy, and skills to make a difference.</p> <p><b>Voice:</b> The campaign highlights the value of young people's voices and their ability to influence decision-making and social change.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> The #IWILL movement promotes the idea that young people's contributions can bring about positive progress in society.</p> <p>Through the #IWILL movement, thousands of young people have been inspired to engage in various forms of social action, addressing issues such as environmental sustainability, mental health awareness, community development, and supporting vulnerable groups. The campaign continues to expand and empower young changemakers to create a better future for themselves and their communities.</p>
<b>Assignment</b>	<p>First register and then download (for free) the following <a href="#">Social Action Toolkit</a> prepared by LifeSkill that provides you with insights and tips to demonstrate how social action plays a strong part in developing a young person's skillset and what they stand for.</p> <p>It contains practical ideas, films, and activities to help build a social action programme which will support students in developing valuable employability skills.</p> <p><b>Set of questions for reflection:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the concrete examples of social action youth can engage in?</li><li>2. What types of core employability skills can youth develop through various forms of social action?</li><li>3. What steps can you take to assist youth with planning and implementing their social action strategy?</li></ol>





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### Call to Action

Theme	Social Action Supporting Employability skills Development		
Activity Title	Skill-Sharing Workshop		
Type of resource	Call to Action Activity		
Photo			
Duration of Activity (in minutes)	120 minutes	Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage youth to learn from each other by sharing experiences and best practices.</li> <li>• Promote teamwork.</li> </ul>





			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn new employability skills.</li> </ul>
Aim of activity	<p>Social action can play a crucial role in developing peer learning by creating opportunities for individuals to collaborate, share knowledge, and learn from each other. Peer learning is an educational approach where participants with similar levels of understanding and experience engage in active discussions and exchanges to enhance their understanding and skills. Here's how social action can foster peer learning through <b>Skill-Sharing Workshops</b>.</p> <p>In this social action project focused on skill sharing, participants with expertise in different areas offer workshops to teach specific skills to others.</p> <p>Workshops can cover diverse topics, such as cooking, painting, gardening, public speaking, or photography.</p> <p>Participants attend multiple workshops, each led by a peer with proficiency in the subject matter.</p> <p>After each workshop, participants have the opportunity to practice and apply the newly acquired skills, with support and feedback from the workshop facilitator and their peers.</p> <p>The variety of workshops and peer-to-peer interactions provide a rich learning experience, enabling participants to develop a range of practical skills.</p>		
Materials Required for Activity	<p>Flip chart paper &amp; markers</p> <p>Arts &amp; Crafts materials</p> <p>And other relevant materials according to chosen topic</p>		
Step-by-step instructions	<p><b>Step 1: Choose the Skill and Objective</b></p> <p>Select a specific skill that participants will share and learn during the workshop. It could be anything from public speaking, gardening, creative writing, or a craft-related skill.</p>		





Define a clear objective for the workshop, such as introducing participants to the basics of the skill or providing hands-on practice in a specific aspect of the skill.

### **Step 2: Set the Workshop Date, Time, and Location**

Determine a suitable date, time, and location for the workshop that accommodates the participants' schedules and provides a conducive learning environment.

Ensure the venue has the necessary resources, such as presentation equipment or materials for hands-on activities.

### **Step 3: Identify Peer Facilitators**

Recruit peer facilitators who are knowledgeable and skilled in the chosen area. These can be youth participants who excel in the skill or have prior experience teaching it.

Ensure that the peer facilitators are comfortable leading the workshop and can effectively communicate the material.

### **Step 4: Develop the Workshop Agenda**

Prepare a detailed agenda that outlines the flow of the workshop, including time slots for each activity.

Structure the workshop to include a mix of instructional segments, interactive exercises, and practical hands-on activities.

### **Step 5: Create Workshop Materials**

Gather all necessary materials and resources for the workshop, such as handouts, presentation slides, or tools required for the skill demonstration or practice.





### **Step 6: Start with Icebreaker and Introductions**

Begin the workshop with an icebreaker activity to help participants get to know each other and feel comfortable in the group.

Allow each peer facilitator to introduce themselves and briefly share their expertise in the skill they will be teaching.

### **Step 7: Demonstrate the Skill**

Have the peer facilitators deliver a live demonstration of the skill, providing clear explanations and examples for participants to follow.

Use visual aids or hands-on demonstrations to make the learning process engaging and interactive.

### **Step 8: Hands-on Practice and Group Activities**

Divide participants into small groups or pairs to engage in hands-on practice of the skill.

Include group activities that encourage collaboration, feedback, and peer learning among participants.

### **Step 9: Encourage Questions and Discussion**

Allow time for participants to ask questions and seek clarification from the peer facilitators.

Encourage open discussions and peer-to-peer interactions to foster a supportive learning environment.

### **10: Debriefing**

Debriefing allows participants to reflect on their experiences, share insights, and draw connections to real-life situations. Ask participants to





share their final feelings and opinions about the course and results of the workshop. You can use, for example, these questions:

- What have you learned?
- How were you feeling during the workshop? Were there any difficulties you had to overcome when learning a new skill?
- What was the most difficult part?
- What was the most funny part? What have you enjoyed the most?
- What are you going to do with the new skill? Are there any specific areas or real time situations where you can use this new skill?





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