

TOWARD A MORE HOLISTIC KEY COMPETENCES SYSTEM FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS



Cohesion

The key competences from 2006 reflect many citizens' needs in Europe, as well as OECD, CoE, UNESCO and the European EQF established competence frameworks do. However, more cohesion between the models would make it easier for teachers and facilitators to apply the frameworks in their practice.

- The new framework needs to be **more coherent with the best other introduced models**, it should be **consistent in itself, applicable** in formal- and non-formal learning, and in different education approaches.
- More cohesion would help better understanding of the key terms, competences and approaches toward it.

The Core Elements of Key Competences

Experience and expertise based on Competendo research and dialogue with various stakeholders across educational faculties and sectors in Europe let point four competence clusters as most relevant for education of the 21st century. Every specific competence framework refers to them or defines them for the own purposes - and sometimes too narrowly. These are...

	Selected Key Aspects
Systemic Thinking	Connection of action at the micro level with the meta-perspective, with impact and sustainability. One is able to describe the link between own action and its relevance and other social areas and politics. The goals and impact of activities can be explained (impact orientation). The understanding of issues from the side of different social sectors increases (cross-sectoral comprehensibility). One is able to reflect upon interdependencies and find out how to ensure sustainability of own actions in the system of different actors and interdependences.
Taking Initiative	Proactive self-empowerment and engagement, for example in public discussions and decisions, in entrepreneurship, project works and other such activities. Developing an attitude of an active, responsible and powerful individual. The ability of gaining clarity about what one wants (vision), what one is able to achieve (resource assessment) and how one wants to achieve a vision (identifying action paths). Learners learn to act in a broad range of activity modes: individual actions as an – rather exposed- change maker (initiating), as part of a team (cooperating), or as part of an institution (participating).
Informational Competence	Critical assessment of information in regard of source, accuracy, authenticity and verification of information. Ability to use, produce, interact and share content through existing tools and media. (both analogue and digital). Respecting rights, values and standards of civility regarding involved people, such as privacy, confidentiality, human rights, netiquette, fairness.

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Learning to Learn	Ability to pursue and maintain learning, to organise one's own learning in a lifelong perspective individually and in groups. Awareness of one's learning process and needs, identifying available opportunities, and the ability to overcome obstacles in order to learn successfully. Positive attitude toward unknown and toward dealing with complex problems.
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- The new competency framework **should include these aspects** in their transversal nature.

Increased Importance of Civic Competence

The idea of active civil society is in nowadays' Europe appreciated more than ever before, both in countries with weaker participation and dialogue structures and in those with a strong civil society. Many hopes are set in the civic self-organization. Active citizens are needed as qualified workforce, as a counterweight to economic lobbying, as speakers and counter-speakers in the risk society, as nucleus of social solidarity and democratic values, as innovators influencing diverse social areas, or as weaver of social bonds and bridges. **Civil society's involvement has become too important for the society to fail.** Civic Competences and key competence framework are the expression of this importance in the field of lifelong learning. Beyond the aforementioned core elements the following competence fields are crucial for a well developing civil society in Europe.

Democratic Practice	Transparent, inclusive, participatory self-organization of citizens. The ability to compete and collaborate among equals fairly, to formulate distinguishable positions. Building organizational structures that ensure quality and quantity of participation and represent the social diversity..
Robust Civility	Developing personal civil courage, the ability to involve in controversial dialogue, discuss complex issues from different perspectives Create public and semi-public spaces for non-violent communication, foster empathy, use conflict management and negotiation skills, contribute to deeper understanding of systemic dimensions of certain issues.
Democratic Attitude	Self-reflectiveness, to what extent democratic values and human rights are translated in one's life, aWillingness to to negotiate personal opinions and plans with others and the skills to implement democratic values in social engagement
Communication	Develop diversity consciousness. Communicate in a non-violent, inclusive and transparent way. Ability to communicate with and within diverse groups. Being able to communicate across social, political and systemic borders (cross-sectoral dialogue). Ability to build inclusive communities.

- The existing key competency concept needs to **recognize the importance of the Civic Competences** for the European development. **The civic dimension of initiative needs to be strengthened in visibility and meaning.**
- Therefore, Competendo proposes to **set up a CiviComp process** with the aim to define and assess better the the Civic Competence and to fully activate the potential of Citizenship Education.
- The **relation between Civic Competences and the existing EntreComp** should be shaped under a civic perspective. It should become clear that "initiative" is not exclusive to "entrepreneurship" - what it would be when simply including EntreComp in the new key competence framework.

Competendo

Competendo is an international educational community committed to education for the development of civic competencies.

Competendo community connects and empowers facilitators of different backgrounds and in diverse fields of education.

We develop concepts and programs for shaping holistic learning spaces understood as a cooperative effort between NGOs, informal groups, citizens's networkss and formal education institutions.

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