

Experiment in International Living



Kevin Hickey
Former CEO,
EIL Intercultural
Learning

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“The Experiment in International Living (EIL) began in the twentieth century in the shadows of the World Wars with a desire to avoid any future conflicts. Our founders believed that peace and understanding could be built through people-to-people exchanges. In a new century we continue to do this through international secondary school exchanges, cultural immersion opportunities and a series of citizen-to-citizen initiatives across all parts of the world. We were pioneers in developing intercultural learning methodologies and in the use of experiential learning to cultivate global competence.

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From the very first EIL initiative in 2014 where they facilitated a strategy renewal process with our Federation, I realised they challenged us to learn, think and act differently. For instance, over the years we’ve repeatedly used the ‘Caplor House’ exercise to help volunteers and staff better understand the ways in which teams can work.

Since that first cooperation, I’ve watched the Caplor Horizons team grow and evolve into a vibrant international community providing opportunities for peer learning and insights into new thinking through webinars and other online events.

The benefits of this evolution have become really evident during a strategy process facilitated by Caplor Horizons. As well as the core Caplor Horizons team, we were supported by two other practitioners from the UK and India who are part of the wider Caplor Community. They brought a wealth of practical experience and new perspectives. This deepened our process beyond expectation.

The process made everybody reflect on the mission and its continued relevance. As such the process helped reaffirm the mission as the core of what we do rather than as some lofty formula of words. As a result, we ended up with a ‘yardstick’ to better measure everything we do and a litmus test for any new projects we may be invited to take on.

In addition, we learned that as well as the nuts and bolts of strategy it was really important for NGOs like EIL to take the time to clearly set out our call to action and to tell our story in ways that resonate with various audiences not familiar with the work we do. This exercise, facilitated in the right way, helps you to learn far more about your organisation and the work you do than you might think. And that is our experience of working with Caplor Horizons: they have become partners to us and the techniques they use enable the learning to go much further than you might expect.

In a simple phrase, you will get far more than you expect from Caplor Horizons.”