

European Generation Link

Förderung einer aktiven europäischen Bürgerschaft
durch Generationen übergreifendes Lernen



www.european-generation-link.org

In the past 60 years, Europe has experienced several waves of migration: displaced persons before, during and after World War II, in the 1960s when "guest workers" were invited from South Europe to the richer states, and after the fall of the Iron Curtain. There are millions of older people who are "European citizens" in the sense that they have lived in several European countries, cultures and societies and who have thus collected considerable experience of "a wider Europe". Promoting European citizens' awareness of Europe has been one of the main objectives of European policy for many years¹, but it has not been totally successful yet, if one considers the failure of establishing a European constitution or the discussions about Turkey becoming a member state. Prejudices and narrow-minded attitudes still linger on, especially among those who have little or no European experience with migration and multicultural approach.

However, the tremendous treasure of those older people who have experienced a multilingual and multicultural life has hitherto been neglected. Unearthing this treasure is even more important since the potential of transferring this knowledge to younger generations is endangered due to the fact that it will literally "die out".

OUR PROJECT AIMS AT

- Promoting adult citizens' awareness of Europe by creating a platform serving as "generation link" where tandem teams of young and old people learn from each other: The older generations will tell their life stories of having lived in various European countries and societies, the younger generation will record and document them in an interactive library and simultaneously teach basic IT skills to the older people
- Promoting intergenerational learning, parental and family learning and mutual knowledge transfer between generations and cultures
- Promoting additional motivation to life-long learning and learning in later life
- Promoting understanding of historical backgrounds and providing reflection in order to increase tolerance and to reduce prejudices and xenophobia

The project is based on overall concepts of intergenerational learning and introduces components of self-organised learning therefore the following methods will be employed: Sensitisation and concrete information of training providers and their learners, motivation to interact in cooperative ways, reflection on the working process and achieved results. The main issue is the development of consciousness of historical and cultural backgrounds and relations in the light of promoting the European citizenship.

DIDACTIC INNOVATIONS

- Combination of intergenerational and self-organised learning approach, in which two target groups (younger and older people) may benefit mutually from each other
- holistic approach, i.e. the simultaneous focus on the transfer of oral history and basic IT skills delivery
- Using the potential of transferring knowledge from older to younger generations in order to preserve valuable European knowledge and experience from extinction
- Development of awareness of historical and cultural heritage among younger target groups through personal involvement in the creation of a European library
- The Guidelines for using the European Generation Link inform adult education providers about organisational aspects of using the platform, how to sensitise their learners and motivate them to form tandem teams with older people who can contribute to the library, how to identify members of the older generation, how to develop templates for a structured input of the information, how to monitor the input and how to provide reflection for both target groups

The composition of the project consortium reflects the diversity of adult education providers within the enlarged EU and represents an attractive cross-section of various cultural traditions. This stimulates a fruitful dialogue and promotes the possibilities to learn from each other, to train intercultural competence and aspects of diversity and to create conscience about the positive values of cultural diversity and cultural exchange.



TARGET GROUPS

- Participants of adult education measures: They are informed and motivated to take part at a new intergenerational activity that will widen their horizon and put them into the role of interviewers, editors and tutors
- Older people with experience of living in different European countries and cultures: They provide lasting information that would otherwise be in danger of being lost forever. In exchange for this contribution, they become equipped with basic IT skills during the joint activities in the "tandem team" with a younger interviewer
- All users of the platform who use this library and thereby receive European social and cultural history in a personalised context
- National and European programmes and initiatives who aim at promoting adult citizens' awareness of Europe.
- Education providers, key actors for lifelong learning and language learning training policies.
- Social partners: The partnership comprises social partners from various European countries.

The platform "European Generation Library" is interactive and internet-based. It contains some 100 recordings of people who have, during their lifetime, lived in more than one European country. Please explore this multicultural treasure of Europe. You may search the library using a variety of search parameters. It provides dramatic, fascinating, horrible, funny, amazing, ... - in any case valuable insights into the richness of Europe's cultural and social heritage.

PLEASE GET INVOLVED ACTIVELY

Download our Guidelines and make multifaceted use of this resource! The brochure "European Generation Link Guidelines" informs adult education providers about organisational aspects of using the platform, how to sensitise the younger generations (i.e. their learners) and motivate them to form tandem teams with older people who can contribute to the library, how to identify members of the older generation, how to develop templates for a structured input of the information, how to monitor the input and how to provide reflection for both older and younger people".



PARTNERS

The Partnership comprises 15 operative and 3 strategic partners from 16 countries:

- BEST Institut für berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personaltraining GmbH, project promotor & coordinator, www.best-training.com
- Artemisszio Foundation, Budapest (HU) www.artemisszio.hu
- BANLIEUES, Bruxelles (BE) www.banlieues.be
- Biuro Inicjatyw Rozwojowych, Bialystok (PL) www.bir.com.pl
- Carpathian Foundation, Oradea (RO) www.carpathianfoundation.org
- Città della Scienza S.c.p.a.-ONLUS, Napoli (IT) www.cittadellascienza.it
- Folkuniversitetet Kristianstad, Kristianstad (SE) www.folkuniversitetet.se
- Gabinet d'Estudis Socials, Barcelona (ES) www.gabinet.com
- Institute Régional pour la Formation des Adultes - IRFA Sud, Montpellier (FR) www.irfa.fr
- Association for Qualification at the Workplace, Znojmo (CZ) www.ktp.org
- Latvian Adult Education Association, Riga (LV) www.laea.lv
- PAPILOT - Zavod za vzpodbujanje in razvijanje kvalitete življenja, Ljubljana (SI) <http://papihot.sisplet.org>
- University of Glasgow, Dept. of Adult and Continuing Education, Glasgow (UK) www.gla.ac.uk/adulteducation
- Volkshochschule Cham, Cham (DE) www.vhs-cham.de
- Global Reklam, Istanbul (TR)

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