

ERASMUS+ Programme

Project “Ageing in the Digital Age”

Project number: 2019-1-PL01-KA204-064986



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Ageing in the Digital Age



How long will the project run?

The Project will be carried out for 24 months, i.e. from 31.12.2019 to 30.12.2021.

What are the main goals?

The overall objectives of the project:

- to tackle the gap between ageing population and digital literacy and address the high necessity for digital key competences of seniors, and make digital competences more accessible to them
- to strengthen and empower professionals, carers and volunteers working with senior citizens, so-called “front-liners” who are in direct and frequent contact with senior citizens to show and to explain which initiatives and programmes exist for older people to learn how to use online tools that improve their health and life quality

The specific objectives of the project:

- to implement an e-platform with an interactive database, searchable after various parameters, that describes and gives access to initiatives, tools and methods and other materials that have been identified and collected in the course of the project, concerning the promotion of digital skills for people living in the 3rd age which are needed to access public services online, to adapt to the digital oriented world and to feel confident using online tools which help to improve their health and life quality.
- to elaborate a Catalogue “Ageing in the Digital Age – Best Practice Support for Digital Competences of Seniors” which will give an overview about the current situation of the specific project environment in the partners’ countries. It will be enriched with the outcomes of the transnational meetings of the four meetings in each partner country where experts from the respective national and local seniors’ education organisations, professionals, carers and volunteers working with senior citizens will discuss these issues with the representatives of our strategic partnership.
- to organise an online interactive Forum for exchange of experience and good practice that will promote networking and exchange activities not only among the partnership and seniors’ education organisations in their countries, but also on a European level. With new translation services, it will become possible to break down language barriers between users from different countries, and to foster exchange and assist initiatives that contribute to the European society as a whole.

What are the target groups?

The target group of our project are not only seniors’ education organisations, but also other professionals, carers and volunteers working with senior citizens. The latter are in close and direct contact with the senior citizens. However, they are usually not informed about the latest developments of ICT trainings. Our materials will provide them with an excellent source which they can use in their regular work with seniors to show and to explain which initiatives and programmes exist for older people to learn how to use online tools that improve their health and life quality.

Why have we decided to focus on this topic?

Europe is facing a “longevity revolution”, as the number of old and very old people will increase in the coming decades: According to Eurostat, by 2060 one in three Europeans will be over 65 years old, and every 8th person will be at the age of 80 and above. Very old people will thus not be a small minority in our societies but a significant citizen group. The time has come to change

the attitude towards them and to shift the focus from inability to opportunities and strengths. The older generation needs to be provided with educational support to enable them to remain active members of society and face the challenges of growing old independently for as long as possible.

Statistics show that senior citizens are often missing out on the lifelong learning opportunities, although lifelong learning is one of the key factors of successful ageing and helps the wellbeing of seniors in later life, stimulating their social inclusion and interest in life.

As the world is transforming into a knowledge society, we increasingly rely on information delivered through computers and mobile technology devices. However, senior citizens form a large part of society that mostly lacks the required skills to participate in this development. This situation creates a growing group of disadvantaged citizens and contributes to the digital divide of European society.

This imbalance also means lost opportunities, as technology can offer many ways of improving quality of life, especially for senior citizens. More than ever before, services, including public services and business transactions, are moving online. The absence of digital skills in senior population is often synonymous with social isolation, segregation in access to information and services, loss of autonomy and increased sense of inability to adapt to the society. Indeed, improving digital skills in seniors is one way of improving their quality of life through an active lifestyle and freedom of choice and decisions.

What are the main results of the project?

The results will be, on the one hand, tangible outputs or quasi "intellectual outputs", and on the other hand, an ongoing dialogue with the stakeholders in the countries of the partnership and Europe, in order to maximize the contribution of best practice and to facilitate the exchange among professionals, carers and volunteers working with senior citizens.

The main tangible outputs:

- **website and e-platform:** It will give access, with explanations in all languages of the partnership, to a database, searchable after various parameters, that describes and gives access to initiatives, programmes, methods and materials concerning the promotion of digital skills for people living in the 3rd age, which are needed to access public services online, to adapt to the digital-oriented world and to feel confident using online tools which help to improve their health and life quality, which will be identified and collected in the project
- **online interactive forum:** it will facilitate the exchange between seniors' education organisations, professionals, carers and volunteers working with senior citizens. It will promote the use of the new machine translation (MT) technology which facilitates real-time translation and is already powerful enough to break down the language barrier between users from different countries
- **catalogue "Ageing in the Digital Age – Best Practice Support for Digital Competences of Seniors":** it will give an overview about the current situation of the specific project environment in the partners' countries. It will be enriched with the outcomes of the transnational meetings where seniors' education organisations, professionals, carers and volunteers working with senior citizens will discuss the issue with the representatives of our strategic partnership.

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Partnership:

The project is carried out within Erasmus+ Programme Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by 4 organisations from the following European countries: Austria, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Coordinator:



Partners:



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