

Ageing Digital Age

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Project background

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 disabilities 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.

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 of 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.



Project 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.

Project aims

The overall objectives of this project are 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
- 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.



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Project results

- **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
- **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.

All project outputs will be developed in English and in country-specific versions in the following languages: German, Polish, Slovakian and Slovenian.

Project promotion

Are you interested in getting more information about the project? Please, do not hesitate to contact us. All contact detail you will find on our project website.

Website: <http://digitalageing.eu/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MoneyAndLifeSkills/>



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.

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