

Spain: “Reading friends”

Organization implementing the project

Name: Centro Internacional de Gandía. Universidad de Valencia
Country: Spain
Contact details: proyectoescuchame@gmail.com
C/ Fundación Vicente Ferrer, 6, Gandía
Tel. 96 295 96 30

Context

According to OECD data, Spain has the highest dropout rate in Europe: In 2007, 35% of those aged 25 to 34 left school without having completed the degree in secondary education, while in the European Union (EU19) the proportion was 19%. Moreover, Spain has the lowest rates of involvement in adult education and lifelong learning of all European countries. In Spain it is very difficult to re-engage in education for those who are 25 years old and have left school. For this reason, the project ESCUCHAME was launched aimed at preventing dropout in adolescence.

Action

The project aims at designing a model according to which retired people can act as mentors (tutors, counselors or guides) of young people aged 11 to 14 and at risk of abandoning their studies. For the mentors, the project organized a training course on how to be a good mentor and the training materials were distributed throughout Europe. In principle, the starting point is a 40 hour course for the mentors consisting in ten sessions throughout ten weeks.

A young person is paired with a mentor and the goal is to establish ties and create relationships of trust and respect that could help both parties grow.

Outcomes and impact

Outcomes for the senior citizens volunteering for this project

- Increase self-esteem and motivation to participate in social life or share experiences of life and have someone to listen and appreciate
- Learn about today's teens
- Helping teens find their way in life and feel involved in the current problems of social life

Outcomes for the adolescents involved in this project

- have a more positive perception of older people
- learn about life and coping with the problems
- receive academic support and career counseling

Project No. 510890-LLP-1-2010-1-FR-GRUNDTVIG-GNW

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

The content of this material reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.

© 2011 - 2013 ENIL project partnership

Outcomes in the society in general:

- awareness raising of the links of reciprocity and social cohesion among people different ages who live in Gandia
- using the plurality of knowledge of the society as a whole through dialogue with senior citizens

Project No. 510890-LLP-1-2010-1-FR-GRUNDTVIG-GNW

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

The content of this material reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.

© 2011 - 2013 ENIL project partnership