

Intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion – European priorities for Adult Learning



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Context



- Economic crisis = social crisis
- 85 million Europeans are older than 65
- Age-dependency ratio:
 - Today: 4 working-age persons for 1 person 65+
 - 2060: : 2 working-age persons for 1 person 65+
- 100 million volunteers in Europe
 - Majority of them between 30 and 50
 - But more and more young people and seniors
 - Contribute up to 5% of GDP
 - Contribute to reaching the 75% employment target in EU 2020

Volunteering is good for...



- self-esteem
- health
- lifelong learning
- making life transitions easier
- social cohesion
- solidarity between generations

... and is good for **EVERYBODY**, whatever the age, gender, status, competences etc...

Policy initiatives - Volunteering



- Dec. 2009: European Parliament « Report on the role of volunteering in contributing to economic and social cohesion »
- 2011: European Year of Volunteering
- Sept. 2011: Communication of the European Commission on « EU policies and volunteering: recognising and promoting cross-border voluntary activities in the EU »
- Oct. 2011: Council Conclusions « The role of voluntary activities in social policy »

Policy initiatives – Active ageing and intergenerational solidarity



- European Year 2012
- One of the priorities of the Grundtvig programme and the future « Agenda for Adult learning 2012-2014)
- Study « Learning for Active Ageing »
- Conference in November 2012

The Grundtvig programme



- Specific objectives: « To respond to the educational challenge of an ageing population in Europe” and “To help provide adults with pathways to improving their knowledge and competences »
- Since 2007: more than 500 projects on active ageing and family learning, including:
 - 149 projects on family learning
 - 101 projects on intergenerational learning or solidarity
 - 55 projects on volunteering
 - 7 projects linked to intergenerational volunteering

Examples of projects



- **MATES** - Mainstreaming Intergenerational Solidarity - www.matesproject.eu
- **VALUE** – Volunteering and Lifelong Learning in universities in Europe – www.valuenetwork.org.uk
- **E-NLL** - Never Late to Learn! Promoting Opportunities for Learning in Later Life - www.enll.eu
- **seVen** – Senior European Volunteers Exchange Network - www.seven-network.eu
- And also...
http://ec.europa.eu/education/sharing-experience/sharing1350_en.htm

Senior Volunteering Projects



- Born in 2009
- Bilateral 2-year partnerships
- Volunteering periods abroad from 3 to 8 weeks
- Next to 200 projects in 3 years

Examples of partnerships:

- The Manchester and Budapest art museums
- The cities of Birmingham and the local football club of Skovde.

More information...



Europa website:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc86_en.htm

Executive Agency for Education, Culture and Media:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/grundtvig/grundtvig_en.php

Grundtvig National Agencies:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm