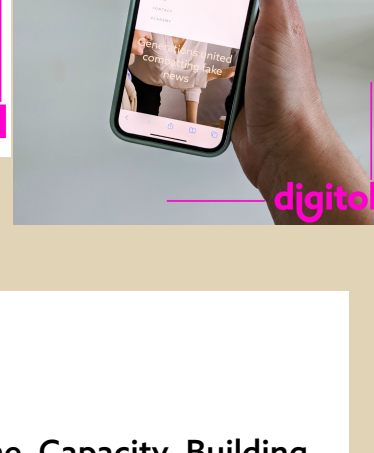


"An informed older,
is a protected older"
Justin Racu
digitol



INTERNATIONAL
LESSON
digitol



What is happening?

Here we are at the doorsteps of delivering the Capacity Building programme which will be followed by the Pilot actions. Our Young ambassadors are fully equipped and ready to start the trainings in 4 of the partner countries and to explore the world of information in the context of intergenerational learning.

The participants age 55+ are recruited (and in some cases the numbers are much higher than expected), the training materials are uploaded on the Digital E-Learning Academy, and we are all very excited with the forthcoming sessions.

Another event worth sharing is the International Lesson which took place on 20th of May 2021.

The meeting, originally planned to be held physically in Italy, took place online. Its aim was to create a space for Young Ambassadors (YA) of all countries to unite, network and share their learning experiences during the Digitol Project. It further aims to provide a space for sharing ideas and plans for the Capacity Building programme, as well as providing support, suggestions and feedback to each other.

Despite the fact that instead of sharing a common space in a meeting room, we shared breakout rooms on Teams, the Young ambassadors from Bulgaria, Greece and Italy were open and curious to what the others have done so far, how it was and what the plans are.

More particular information you can read in the section News from partners which is following beneath.



News from our partners!

BULGARIA

We were absolutely lucky to be able to organize a face-to-face meeting of our Young ambassadors and trainers over the weekend on 15-16 May 2021. To meet in person was such a nice opportunity which was used also to plan the participation to the International event with the young ambassadors from the other partner counties, to distribute the tasks for further development of the Capacity Building Programme and to plan the Pilot actions with the elderly participants.

Happy to announce we have 36 older adults enrolled. The piloting starts at 19th of June and will continue until beginning of August. Since it is safer to conduct it online, the participants are from all over the country not just from Sofia.

Meanwhile Znanie was invited to talk about the project on the Bulgarian National Radio, Sofia.

ITALY

During the ToT, Young Ambassadors were challenged by DIGITOL senior trainers on the topics of volunteering and intergenerational work, and they were asked the following questions:

"Intergenerational work": What does it mean to you?

What experiences do you have of working/activism/training with adults?

What do you see as the main opportunities and challenges in working with adults?

Young Ambassadors had the chance to express their views on this subject on the online forum of the project Digital Academy, and these are some of the comments shared by individual Young Ambassadors:

"Intergenerational work for me it means working in a context with people of different ages. Each generation can bring different competences and skills to the table to achieve an end result where you have positively influenced each other".

"During my high school years, I had the opportunity to volunteer in the University of the Third Age, so I worked closely with people who were already retired but still willing to learn.

In my opinion, the main opportunity of working with older people is the possibility to see things from their point of view, which is often different from ours and this can allow us to broaden our knowledge and our perspective. Another asset is the possibility to learn from their experiences".

The main challenges in working with adults according to me are:

- finding ways to get in touch with older people who need help: if they don't have a working PC, they are unlikely to be reached by the 'usual' Facebook post, especially now that we are all in lockdown.

- not taking for granted anything that an older person might need: even the mere unblocking of a phone or connecting to the home Wi-Fi is not obvious if you have never done it and if you are not a "digital native".

GERMANY

Information on German Capacity Building programme:

The programm will start at: 02.06.2021. It will take place in during two online sessions per week of one hour, Monday and Wednesday from 18-19 h from June till end of August.

The following is an overview of the Agenda and the topics that will be covered during the training:

- Introduction + Getting to know each other
- Introduction Digital World (Social Media, Devices...)
- Fake News Introduction
- News sources (media education)
- Filter bubble and search engines
- Advertising + paid ads in the digital world
- Influencing elections
- Further Fake News variants: Manipulation in videos and co.
- Hate speech and conspiracy theories on the internet
- Develop ideas for pilot projects and actions

Registration for the programme is possible anytime, by contacting our project by email:

Email: epm@proarbeit-kreis-of.de

Follow our local activities on Facebook and Instagram:

https://www.facebook.com/proarbeit_epm/
https://www.instagram.com/proarbeit_epm/

Information on Volunteering in the EU:

Check out what Europe has to offer for young people:

[European Youth Portal | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

Find out about funded volunteering opportunities at the European level and beyond.

[Go abroad | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

Information on opportunities to take part in shaping the EU

Possibility to engage with the conference on the future of Europe process. See the following platform:

[Conference on the Future of Europe \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Conference on the Future of Europe \(europa.eu\) \(german link\)](#)

Engage with the EU Youth Dialogue:

[Wie kann ich mich am EU-Jugenddialog beteiligen? | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

GREECE

The Training Of Trainers program in Greece is completed, and our Young Ambassadors are ready to move on to the next phase of the project! The ToT equipped them with educational tools and methodologies to help them guide their older learners through intergenerational activities to a better understanding of the Internet and the information it provides.

They were surprised to find out that they had stereotypes of their own about old age, stereotypes they were given the opportunity to identify and confront. As they are now well prepared to work with their learners, they held their first meeting with the participants of the program. The main objective of the first gathering was for the group to get to know each other, to express hopes, anticipations and desired outcomes from the program, and of course to learn more about it.

32 older learners, 8 Young Ambassadors and 3 trainers took part in this first –on line, unfortunately- intergenerational, festive assembly! All participants seemed very pleased to work together on common goals, a very promising start for a successful exchange of ideas and experiences during the project's implementation!

Intergenerational Learning in Adult Education

Intergenerational learning (IL) is where people from ages meet and learn together and from each other. Originally understood more within families, it is getting more and more impact and is being conducted with wider social groups and outside the family circle.

What is Intergenerational Learning

Beyond the transfer of knowledge, IL fosters reciprocal learning relationships between different generations and helps to develop social capital and social cohesion in our ageing societies. The [European Network of Intergenerational Learning](#) defines it as a learning partnership based on reciprocity and mutuality involving people of different ages where the generations work together to gain skills values and knowledge. Intergenerational learning has an important purpose which requires further exploring and embedding in our education systems (both formal, non-formal and informal) so that all members of our societies can benefit from learning across the life span.

Why is it important?

Intergenerational learning can take place in a variety of social settings and through different programmes or projects which assist to strengthen social capital and bonds creating social cohesion in our communities. It works well to combat stereotypes such as ageism (targeted towards young and old) and can assist to address demographic changes and bring solidarity across the life cycle, breaking down barriers and working towards an intergenerational world. In our changing world, society has a gone through changes, with a break down in family and geographic mobility - with generations being separated, particularly younger and older people. Negative stereotyping and lack of contact between these groups has led or can lead to a deterioration in social cohesion in our communities. Both groups have resources that are valued, through intergenerational learning they can share their skills and worth with each other. Both groups are marginalised in decision making and have more in common than they realise. IL can strengthen communities to become more age-friendly by breaking down barriers between ages and stereotypes by one age group toward another to promote understanding, respect and trust whilst sharing ideas, skills, knowledge and experience.

With the current COVID-19 pandemic, intergenerational relationships are more important than ever. We are witnessing a new height in the level of negative headlines from the media. On a regular basis they pit the generations off each other using frightening headlines such as The cull of the elderly or Teenage job hopes ruined by negative media stereotypes. One radio show called their afternoon chat section "[Are young people killing older people](#)", back a more recent newspaper article writing "[youngsters hit back at being made COVID-19 scapegoats](#)" in an article titled It's not our fault. This form of media reporting is distancing the generations even further in a time when we should be helping and supporting each other. Intergenerational programmes are more than "[feel good activities](#)": they mutually benefit participants, as well as volunteers, staff, family members, organisations and the community and can address major concerns and issues in the local community such as:

- building active and safer communities;
- reducing inequality;
- reducing social isolation and loneliness;
- building relationships in communities;
- improving health and mental wellbeing;
- increasing digital connectivity;
- contributing to improve climate challenge.*

*If you would like to read the whole article you can find [it here](#).

We, the DIGITOL consortium, are dedicated to the idea to promote activities, to combine theory and practice, and keeping the focus on the main topics included in the project, such as fake news, human rights, disinformation, etc., equally to foster the above mentioned benefits.

More information will come in our next newsletter!