

# European Map of Intergenerational Learning

Newsletter – 17<sup>th</sup> edition

## In this issue:

### Introduction:

- Update on EMIL
- ECIL's launch Conference

### EUROPEAN PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES:

- “TRANS eScouts – Empowering eFacilitators for intergenerational dialogue”
- @Learn
- Intergenerational Project EPBJC/ AURPIPP and UNISEIXAL “*Gathering of generations in the classroom*”
- Association of hippocampal - Educational Centre for Intergenerational Integration

### Intergenerational News & Events:

- Intergenerational Month
- Intergenerational Action on a Global Scale – Conference summer 2015

### Resources:

- Use Your Community
- NEW ILC-UK REPORT: Community Matters: Making our Communities Ready for Ageing - a call to action.

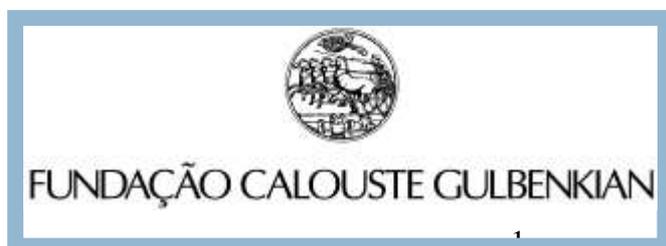
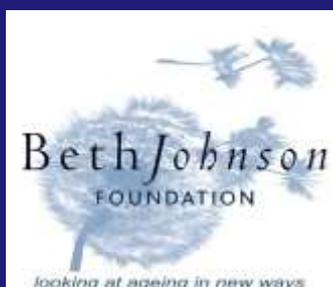


### Linking Generations ‘in’ Northern Ireland



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# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

## Update on EMIL

Having just completed the final report for EMIL for our current funders, both myself and the management committee have had the time and space to reflect on the entire span of the project – and I wanted to share some of this with you – our dedicated members:

Over the past 5 years, EMIL's work has grown and made a significant impact in the field of IL. Since its launch in 2009, EMIL has made significant progress in mapping IP, highlighting IL already taking place throughout Europe, developing its virtual learning model and engaging a growing active membership. The establishment of a dedicated learning network in the shape of EMIL has provided a platform that was greatly needed in Europe to compare, disseminate and promote quality IP more widely. 5 years on, the network now exemplifies the importance of collaboration, with over 500 individual and organisational members in a variety of European countries states actively contributing to discussions and adding resources regularly - ensuring EMIL is recognised as an expert and leader in the field.

The Calouste Gulbenkian gave us generous funding to develop the network but compared to the level of funding to a comparable European funded project our resources were comparatively small with no money to pay for organisations participation. People had to belong to the network and contribute because it was of value to them and their practice, not because they were being paid to do so. Our core principles from the beginning were for network members, through the steering committee to shape the development of EMIL, for no single organisation to own the network, for anyone who joined to commit to sharing and contributing and to develop the role of the Coordinator as a facilitator encouraging others to take responsibility, not as someone who spoon fed the membership. Over 5 years later it is tempting to look back and speculate on whether we would have achieved more with greater funding but it is a salutary lesson to look at comparable partnerships that have started as ... *continued on the final page.*

## **ECIL – The Development of a European Certificate in Intergenerational Learning**

[The aim of ECIL](#) has been to pilot a collection of intergenerational learning materials and training approaches initially developed in the UK with a number of partners across Europe. Through this process, both the materials and learning approaches will be tested for wider European relevance. Different delivery mechanisms will be trialed and materials redrafted into a distance learning package that will be delivered throughout Europe and ultimately accredited in partner countries.

***Why the need for such a project?*** There is a growing recognition of the need for IG approaches to vocational learning that explore the skill sets, attitudes and competences of different cohorts of learners. Until now there has been no systemic attempt to develop a structured, accredited approach to IG learning, particularly for the professional delivering such programmes. As a result, ECIL has developed an on-line programme leading to the European Certificate in intergenerational learning to be accredited as a qualification programme.

As such, [the ECIL conference, scheduled for September 18, 2014 in Sofia, Bulgaria](#) will bring together scholars, adult educators, youth workers, social workers, leaders of civil organisations, who might want to become multipliers of the programme, as well as representatives of ministries and other bodies, personal managers and employers interested in adopting the programme and enhancing the relationships among generations.



ECIL has been developed by the Beth Johnson Foundation and EMIL and is financed by the European Commission, program Leonardo da Vinci, Transfer of Innovation, Nr 2012-1-GB2-LEO05-08174

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“TRANS eScouts – Empowering eFacilitators for intergenerational dialogue” is a transfer of successful former “e-Scouts – intergenerational learning circle for community” project to Croatia, Latvia and Lithuania and it is a part of EC Lifelong learning programme.

The idea of project is to facilitate the socio-digital inclusion of elderly and youth improving local community life by means of the intergenerational dialogue and mutual support. Project implementers intend to build a learning circle in which the youth supports senior people in ICT usage and, in return, seniors mentor youth in their efforts to access the labor market and to face challenges of adult life, completing in this way a circle of learning, exchange and conviviality.

The project activities and learning path will be applied in telecentres collaborating with eFacilitators. Through this project, they will learn how to work social, digital and labor inclusion, as well as social cohesion and participation with two distant generations at the same time, becoming Intergenerational Mediators and Facilitators.

To ensure the usefulness and practicality of the transfer, a prior context analysis will be held and based on its results, a "transculturization process" will be carried out by each of the receiving partners. The contextualization of the learning program design was a already relevant aspect in the eScouts project to assure the success of the initiative, but to make it scalable to further realities, guidelines and recommendations were created in order to facilitate the process.

The Intergenerational Learning Circle is based on 5 modules:

- M1 - Intergenerational Facilitators Training
- M2 - Facilitators to Youngsters Training
- M3 - Youngsters to Seniors ICT Training
- M4 - Facilitators to Seniors Training
- M5 - Seniors to Youngsters Mentoring

To learn more, visit the [project website](#).

## European Projects, Programmes & Partnerships from the field:

### @Learn

@Learn is an EU Commission funded multilateral Grundtvig project which unites partner organisations from five European countries. The aim is to foster the concept of Active Ageing with a particular focus on Lifelong Learning. The overall goal of the project is to establish an active aging learning-community centring on the topics of health care, social inclusion, using new information & social media, and intergenerational dialogue.



Throughout August Age Action Ireland delivered modules in *Health-Self Management*, *ICT Skills*, and *Intergenerational Volunteering* to a diverse and enthusiastic group of learners of all ages. The feedback from learners about the workshops, online self-study, and project-based activities has been excellent.



The next step for the @learn project is to disseminate an information pack containing the results of the pilot testing along with a promotional DVD. The goal is to begin collaborating with statutory bodies, educational organisations and community groups so that the learning materials can live on and benefit more people of all ages after the project officially finishes in October 2014.

For more information about this project, [click here](#).

# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)



## Intergenerational Project EPBJC/ AURPIPP and UNISeixal “Gathering of generations in the classroom”

Students from a local school and users from the Associação Unitária Reformados, Pensionistas e Idosos de Paio Pires (AURPIPP) and UNISSeixal – Universidade Sénior do Seixal (Senior University) in Portugal, are developing an intergenerational project/partnership, under the theme “Gathering of Generations in the Classroom”, relating to Information and Communication Technologies.

The students establish a link between those realities and nowadays, using today’s available technologies. From this exchange of knowledge, they create *sites* where they present the different approached matters and they save all the accomplished work in a database. Overall, this project has contributed to consolidate social and curriculum skills, through the exchange of knowledge, research challenges, and the will to know more. The results of all the groups work can be [accessed here](#).

**A research circle of senior PhD students at Jönköping University has released a report: Active aging - Pensioners approach to work and learning.** There is much talk of raising the retirement age, and that we have to work longer. The reason is that society will not meet the costs of the increasing proportion of the older population. This report presents a study of pensioners view on learning and work in later life. An important conclusion in the report is that both work and learning are important but that the concept of work may be too narrow to understand the activities that give meaning and support wellbeing. Furthermore, the possibility of lifelong learning should be clearly integrated into the question of prolonging working life. The individual's ability to control their own time emerged as a necessary component in order to actively participate as much as possible. Voluntary action is an essential component to allow for adaptation to the individual's unique circumstances, needs and motivations.

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## EU Projects/Partnership continued



**Association of hippocampal - Educational Centre for Intergenerational Integration** promotes also the idea “age friendly cities” in all the aspects, as the suitable tool and signpost for the senior’s policy as a whole. The association is a provider of the educational and activating, supporting work in the communities, focused on the elderly and the intergenerational dimension in demographic context.

Hipokamp supports seniors clubs and other non-formal seniors groups, cooperating with nursing homes and daily stay houses for seniors and publish a free Senior Citizens Newspaper, where the voice of persons age 60+ can be heard and their point of view expressed.



***The strengths of each generation must meet the needs of all generations.***  
*Sandy Kraemer*

14 years ago, a small group of people formed Intergeneration Foundation and established Intergeneration Day, an annual time to intentionally connect all ages worldwide. In 2013, this highly successful effort expanded into Intergeneration Month: September.

Organizations around the world are promoting intergeneration programs because of the benefits to individuals of all ages as well as the larger community. In the US, 43 States have proclaimed the Celebration. Intergeneration Months are springing up all over the world, from Africa to New Zealand. [Click here to submit your celebration or learn about intergeneration news from around the world.](#)

# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)



## Intergenerational Action on a Global Scale – conference summer 2015

EMIL is delighted to promote the biennial intergenerational conference of Generations United to be held in Hawaii July 21st to 25th 2015. [Click here for more information](#) about the conference and details of sponsoring partners.

**EMIL UPDATE continued ...** pan-European initiatives during the same time frame which no longer exist or have changed their objectives to follow where the finding leads them rather than where the initial core vision would have taken them. CGF have been an exemplary funder in supporting the network development, providing flexibility as well as bringing an intellectual rigour and insight which has been highly influential. For example, supporting the EMIL roundtable programme gave much greater impact and reach than a traditional intergenerational conference would have done, especially by ensuring that people of all ages could engage not just professionals who could afford to travel.

Not everything we have tried has been successful but EMIL has become internationally known and respected, is highly regarded by its members who support its continuing existence.

In summary EMIL's success has been based on creating opportunities for people who are passionate about IL and IP to come together and support one another. EMIL has been an integral part in the growing interest across Europe in intergenerational work. Establishing it now as a legal entity will enable us to engage in income generating activities and partnership working to consolidate its progress to date and into the future. I would like to take this moment to thank everyone who has been involved with the development of the network.

*Please stay tuned for more from EMIL in the upcoming months.*

## Resources

**Use Your Community** - [a website that enables people to find their local community organisations and access them for services.](#) Such a website was created because it was found that older people were not accessing their local community organisations for services and support such as advice, befriending, volunteer help etc and as a way of engaging with younger people in their community. For example, older people have used our website to find local youth organisations and have gone to volunteer for them. *Use Your Community* believes the value of the website is that it is a free resource that people can use anytime by simply typing in the first part of their postcode or their area into our search. Because many people do not know the names of their local organisations so with postcode search we can provide them with a list of organisations in their area and they can simply click on the link and be taken through to that organisation.

## **NEW ILC-UK REPORT: Community Matters: Making our Communities Ready for Ageing - a call to action.**

Community Matters takes a futures perspective on understanding the evidence about how communities need to adapt to an ageing society. The report argues that policy makers must work to ensure that communities do more than cater for our basic needs. It argues that communities should be places of fun for all.

The report sets out a 10 point action plan for local authorities, which includes:

- Places to meet not places to hire - Offer free space to allow people to come together to talk and enjoy life.
- Ensure people aren't caught on a bladder leash - Maintain and keep open or incentivise businesses to open up their toilet facilities as a public resource.
- Build neighbourliness - Find ways of breaking down "safeguarding" barriers that currently prevent generations working together.

[Click here to learn more and download the report.](#)