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European Projects, Programmes & Partnerships from the field:

'Papy-foot' - Intergenerational table football tournament in France

Prior to the Euro 2016 event a table football competition is being organised in retirement homes by the French association Tatane. The teams are made up of one older and one young person. The objective is to create intergenerational interactions around a very popular sport and event and bring on board people who are socially excluded. The initiative is supported by the City of Paris.

Click here to learn more (in French)

New TOY project website promotes intergenerational initiatives between older people and young children

The Together Old and Young (TOY) project seized the occasion of the EU Day of Solidarity between Generations to launch its new website. TOY promotes bringing young children and older people together in providing news, resources and information on innovative intergenerational initiatives involving young children and older adults worldwide. It also offers an opportunity to practitioners, researchers and volunteers to share insights, experiences and research. TOY welcomes contributions, on the topic of young children and older people learning and playing together, to news items on their homepage, newsletter and blog space.

To visit the TOY Project website, click here.

Yeditepe University’s programme of students visiting residents in a nearby care home

Another semester that united Yeditepe University students with the residents of the nearby elderly care home is finished. Students of the “Social Responsibility Project for Graduation” course are ready to graduate leaving behind “aunts/uncles/grandparents” and unforgettable memories shared with them. The instructor of the course collects the diaries of the students and the pictures they had taken reveal emotional, moving, warm heartwarming, touching, and enlightening stories.

Every weekday a group of students visited the care home where they listened to the life stories, watched soap operas, sang songs, played cards, danced, learned new dance steps, discussed world politics while drinking tea, learned new patterns of knitting, read fortunes after drinking coffee, and played backgammon.

While waiting for the next academic year, many residents reminded the graduating students not to forget to visit them and exchanged telephone numbers. Next semester new students will bring them joy and hope, and the students will enrich their own lives before graduating. Dr. Ayseli Usluata (Professor of the course)
EMIL Member – Profile:

ADVENTURES WITH THE MAGICAL CAR

A project that unites grandparents and grandchildren’s tasks on dialogue and understanding with educational workshops in schools by sharing the reading of a book and assembling a wooden car together. The project’s achievements in the past 5 years have motivated children and older adults to enjoy an unforgettable day in more than 300 schools in Argentina.

The focus of this activity is in schools with low income that are eager to receive some additional help and support. The next step will be to explore the possibility of developing this programme into other areas so that all grandparents have the opportunity to share with grandchildren these memorable moments.

The main focus of the project is the workshop that has achieved unique goals and doubled the time of a standard class, achieving a climate of constant attention and training of guest teachers so that in the future they are able to replicate this activity with other groups of students. The goal is to continue spreading these achievements, achieve strategic alliances to empower future sustained growth, bringing the message to as many schools in need in Argentina and further abroad.

To learn more about this experience, visit the project website or go to their Facebook page.

EU Day of Solidarity between generations: More intergenerational solidarity and interactions needed to challenge age stereotypes and ageism

On the 8th European Day of Solidarity between Generations, AGE Platform states “it is obvious that many disadvantages and obstacles still hinder the equal participation of the young and the older generations across the European Union. Celebrating and fostering solidarity between generations is even more than ever necessary in today’s context of economic crisis and unemployment rise, likely to exacerbate intergenerational divide and stereotypes”.

Most of the initiatives in that area are currently carried out at the local level, following a bottom-up approach. At EU level, European legislations and recommendations should urgently pay more attention to the pressing need to strengthen solidarity. This was one of the conclusions drawn at the joint event organised by the European Parliament Intergroup on Active Ageing, Intergenerational Solidarity and Family issues, AGE Platform Europe and the European Youth Forum to mark the EU Day of Solidarity between Generations.

Joint event at the European Parliament called for greater EU attention - Solidarity between Generations is the key for equity and social inclusion

The 8th edition of the EU Day of Solidarity between Generations provided an opportunity to shed light on the widespread experiences of ageism at both ends of the life spectrum and how they lead to inequalities and exclusion. An event was organized by AGE Platform and The European Youth Forum at the European Parliament that highlighted that greater intergenerational exchange and solidarity are needed to break stereotypes and ensure that young and older people are equal partners in positive change for the creation of fairer, more inclusive and sustainable societies.
AGE issues position on Structural Ageism

Across the EU there exist laws, policies and practices that reflect ageist prejudices and de-prioritise, disregard or even exclude older people. Based on a survey gathering the views of some of our 150+ member organisations' common experiences, and to mark the European Day of Solidarity Between Generations, AGE Platform Europe will present our position on age discrimination and ageism at a joint European Parliament event hosted by the Intergroup on Ageing’s sub-group on active ageing on 26 April 2016.

AGE wishes to draw attention to persisting forms of structural ageism in Europe and to make recommendations to ensure that older people's rights are protected and promoted in the context of intergenerational fairness; the younger persons' perspective will be presented by the European Youth Forum.

Click here to download AGE’s position paper addressing ageism and age discrimination

Teachers’ perceptions of Intergenerational Knowledge

This study looks at knowledge brokering from a teacher’s perspective and aims to describe how teachers perceive colleagues from other generations in terms of knowledge demands and knowledge supplies, and how processes of knowledge-sharing across teachers of different generations take place. Findings suggest that knowledge flow between knowledge demands and supplies can be affected by perceptions about teachers’ attitudes. Findings exemplify the occurrence of IG knowledge brokerage processes within school teams. Click here to access this article

Intergenerational News & Events

Symposium entitled “Intergenerational learning in the workplace”, at the ECER Conference (University College Dublin, 22-26 August, 2016).

Papers include:

- Types of intergenerational learning among teachers
- Inter-generational Learning in Teaching: What and how teachers learn from their younger and elder colleagues?
- Age as a predictor for relationships within school teams
- Learning leadership for sustainable innovation in complex environments: the role of intergenerational learning

To learn more about the symposium and who the authors are of these papers, click here.

Intergenerational Digital Learning Sessions in Italy

How can we simplify our lives thanks to new ICT technology? In a few Italian cities, Grandparents On-line, Everyone's Young at the Post Office explain it to senior citizens who want to learn to use public administration services that are available via computers, tablets and smartphones. The project aims to promote the inclusion all citizens in the transition from a traditional to a digital economy, exploiting the precious contribution of young men and women to fight social and technological exclusion of over-65s and reducing the Italian digital divide.

The digital literacy programme devised is based on 15 two-hour lessons (ranging from the ABC of computers to on-line services) were held by student tutors - one for each senior student and coordinated by a teacher, who provided older people with the necessary competences to use new technology. Participants had access to a full educational kit, including manuals, video lessons and short lessons.

Click here to learn more about this programme.
Intergenerational Contact Zones: A Compendium of Applications

Penn State’s latest “Ideas for intergenerational living” newsletter (now available, click here) features the unveiling of a new online publication — “Intergenerational Contact Zones: A Compendium of Applications”. This Compendium publication largely as an exploratory piece and as a way to introduce more people to the ICZ concept and some its many applications. Example chapters include:

Recreation:
- Community Centres as ICZs
- A Portuguese City Park as a Potential ICZ

Education:
- Intergenerational Reading Rooms: Lessons Learned from The Intergenerational School
- University Research Spaces as ICZs: Opportunities and Challenges

Transportation:
- Can Urban Streets and Spaces be Intergenerational Cycling Zones?

Residential:
- Beyond Contact - Intergenerational Living in Cohousing Communities

Virtual environments:
- Online Gaming Platforms as ICZs

Shopping:
- Let’s Go Shopping Together: Supermarkets as Potential Intergenerational Contact Zones

To stimulate attention and further work in this area, please do what you can to disseminate the ICZ website/publication materials to your networks, newsletters, etc. The Editors welcome your feedback on the Compendium and suggestions you might have for next steps. To download a copy of this publication, click here

Resources

Learning with Seniors: An Intergenerational Relations Programme

Learning with Seniors is a an intergenerational relations programme (IP) that operates at five primary schools, one secondary school, the University of Barcelona —with 2nd year Psychology students, a municipal toy library and youth centre, 4 retirement homes and 3 municipal seniors’ centres within the district.

This book is divided into two sections: the first describes the creation of the Senior Citizens’ Programme, and the second explores the “Learning with Seniors” experience. The aim is to share with those interested the beginnings of this intergenerational relations program: its composition, its current mechanics and how “Learning with Seniors” has gradually grown to establish itself and demonstrated that it was a necessary and advantageous programme for all the generations involved. At the same time, for professionals who work with different age groups, this publication may serve as food for thought and as a source of ideas that may help them to organize other intergenerational activities; and finally for senior citizens in particular, it will afford them insight to the advantages of these programmes, for themselves and for the other generations, hence ultimately spurring them to participate. This publication is available in English, Catalan, and Spanish.

To download this publication, click here

CARE Special Delivery – Letters of Hope

CARE provides disaster relief around the world, providing support to Syrian refugee children through its Special Delivery program - former World War II refugees write letters to connect with Syrian refugee children. CARE has reached over 2 million Syrians with humanitarian relief. But as the Syrian conflict drags past the five-year mark, we wanted to deliver something more: HOPE! Watch the video to see how CARE package recipients, once refugees themselves, wrote letters of support to Syrian children. The result as shown in the video has been some deeply moving connections between people who, though separated by decades and distance, share so much.

Click here to learn more about this unique project.