In this issue:

EUROPEAN PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

- TOY funded project: TOY-PLUS: Professional Learning Upscaling Skills
- Intergenerational Car Sharing
- How to Use Pokémon Go to Strengthen Intergenerational Relationships
- Graffiti Workshops for Seniors in Lisbon

Intergenerational NEWS & EVENTS

- Can talent be taught across the generations?
- How Hunger Solutions Can Bring Generations Together
- 'Les Talents d'Alphonse': online platform to support skill transmission between young and older
- September – Intergeneration Month
- Intergenerational Story Telling Contest
- Childcare Lessons for South Korean Elderly

RESOURCES

- A special edition of ‘Studia Pedagogica’ - on Intergenerational Learning
- Europe’s Seven Best Cities for Intergenerational Travellers
- Generations Working Together, Scotland - Call for Papers
European Projects, Programmes & Partnerships from the field:

TOY funded project – TOY-PLUS: Professional Learning Upscaling Skills

The project will provide a free online course for professionals in Intergenerational Learning. Funded under the Dutch Agency of Erasmus + programme for adult education, the project begins in November 2016 and will develop a free online professional development course (MOOC) which will be piloted in Italy, Ireland, UK, Spain and Slovenia. In parallel with this, the project will develop a TOY Quality Stamp for Municipalities and ECEC and social care services wishing to facilitate Intergenerational Learning activities.

The Beth Johnson Foundation (UK) is proud to be one of the organisations who will be working in partnership over the next two years with International Child Development Initiatives (project lead) – the Netherlands, Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland), Developmental Research Center for Pedagogical Initiatives Step by Step (Slovenia), Azienda Speciale ReteSalute (Italy), Hellenic Open University (Greece), and the Municipality of Lleida (Spain).

To learn more about this project, visit the TOY website.

Intergenerational car sharing

‘Génération mobilité’ brings together older people who no longer feel comfortable when driving their own car with young people who need a car for their professional activities. The idea of the initiative is that the young person drives the senior wherever he wants and in return the senior lends his car to the young driver when needed for professional purpose (only!). This project, initiated by the ‘Établissement d’insertion par la formation (EIPF)’ in Brest (far West of France) has been awarded a 20,000 euro grant following a call for projects to promote the mobility of frail persons.

There is no requirement for involvement in the long term and no additional cost for the older person (the insurance is paid by Génération mobilité. The young person’s driving capacity is also checked. Click here to learn more (in French).

How to Use Pokémon Go to Strengthen Intergenerational Relationships

Pokémon Go has taken over and is now one of the most downloaded apps ever! The game combines the popular Pokémon world with GPS. This allows participants to venture out into the real world and catch Pokémon, or pocket monsters, inside capsules called Pokéballs. Using a smartphone participants scan their surrounding area to locate Pokémon and catch them by throwing the Pokéballs at them. This app could be a big step to bringing the generations together. Generations United has produced a guide Generations United Take Action Guide, to help you make the most intergenerational use of Pokémon Go. Generations United highlights ways young and old can use this app to stay active together, make connections and keep each other safe.
Graffiti Workshops for Seniors in Lisbon

Founded by Lara Seixo Rodrigues, a street artist from eastern Portugal, LATA 65 (lata means "can" in Portuguese) is an urban art workshop that teaches the basics of street art to seniors in various neighbourhoods around the city of Lisbon, Portugal. LATA 65 aims at destroying age stereotypes, bringing art closer to the communities and connecting older and younger generations in letting them have fun.

Lara first noticed the elderly’s interest in graffiti when she was out creating art in the streets of Covilhã. Lara and her fellow street artists realised that older people were often present, watching the graffiti artists at work. “They were the ones who were most interesting in what we were doing”. The team began to work with the town’s older citizens, holding workshops that helped them to design their own ‘tags’ – a graffiti signature – and go out on the streets to make their marks. Now over 100 ‘oldies’ have been through the LATA 65 workshop, with an impressive age range of 63 to 93.

LATA 65 works directly with the council to get permissions to the walls, and it’s clear to see why the local government is so happy to support the workshop. Street art is given to the community by artists. It is the most democratic way of showing art to the people and getting them into the arts.”

Graffiti Workshops Con’t

The impact the project has had on the community in Portugal has been palpable, with many people being initially taken aback by the sight of the elderly graffitting walls.

Street art hasn’t just helped to quash misconceptions people have about street art and the elderly. LATA 65 works in areas close to where the older people live, so that they can identify with what they see during their daily routine. Street art is unique in its ability to join the neighbourhoods with the people that inhabit them, Lara said, as it’s in the streets, close to the people – it can talk to the community.

Click here to read more about this project or watch the youtube video.

Can talent be taught across the generations?

On May 16, 2016, IURCOVICH (part of Trasversale srl, leading brand in the study and consulting of family business) organized a conference titled “Family business and talent”, hosted at Azimut Consulenza Sim headquarters in Rome. The conference focused on highlighting the key competences that are found behind successful family business: how can talent be developed within the family? Can talent be taught from one generation to another?

Talent is one of the most important assets of a firm, especially in family business. To an entrepreneurial family, identifying the best suitable heir is crucial to guarantee generational continuity within the family. The meeting was an opportunity to present the new brand book by Maria Buccolo, Italian business trainer, “Formar-si alle professioni educative e formative”, published by Franco Angeli. Members of successful family businesses (Daruma Sushi and Gruppo CR – both trading in the food retail industry) shared their experiences on talent identification and selection.

Click here to listen to the conference podcast (in Italian).
September is INTERGENERATION MONTH – Connecting People Across Generations

In 1987, “Intergeneration Foundation” identified the need to set aside a time each year to focus on intentionally connecting generations to better communicate age-related gratitude and needs. To fulfill this need, the year 2000 was launched “Intergeneration Day” (1st Sunday in October). The need to annually set aside a time to intentionally connect generations was clear. In 2012, Intergeneration Foundation expanding Intergeneration Day to Intergeneration Month to increase the time for planning and staging “IG Events” throughout the US and Canada.

Intergenerational Storytelling Contest – 2016 Theme: “Connecting People Across Generations” This contest, judged by 3 nationally recognized authors, is now open for participants to submit their stories. Participate now in this celebrated annual Storytelling Contest by following these simple rules:

- Stories must include characters from more than one generation.
- Stories must be original and unpublished, and may be fiction, non-fiction, or a combination.
- Stories may not exceed 400 words.

Deadline for submissions – Sept. 30/2016. Click here to learn more about the contest.

Childcare Lessons for South Korean elderly

Around the world, grandparents play a vital role in the upbringing of their grandchildren. But increasingly, their children are also paying them to do it. As a result, in South Korea, some are going to classes to relearn the art of looking after children - to make sure they’re still qualified for the job.

Click here to see video footage from the BBC’s report from Seoul.

Intergenerational News & Events

How Hunger Solutions Can Bring Generations Together

Efforts to address hunger, food insecurity and poor nutrition are often segmented by age. School lunch programs for children, Meals on Wheels for older adults are a few of the programs designed to combat hunger and provide nutritious meals to age-specific groups. This trend has caused few providers to think of an intergenerational lens when carrying out this critical work. Hunger doesn't discriminate by age.

Some creative, resourceful community leaders are experimenting with “age-advantaged” approaches that warrant a deeper look and wider replication. These programs and services engage the skills, time and passions of children, youth and older adults who together address the hunger and nutrition challenges in their communities.

Click here to read the entire article by D.Butts (ED – Generations United).

‘Les Talents d’Alphonse’: a French online platform to support skill transmission between young and older

‘Les Talents d’Alphonse’ is the name of a new website launched by 2 young French engineers to make use of seniors’ experience while promoting social interactions between the young and older generations. Many seniors know how to cook, sew, knit and repair, while many young people can't do it anymore. The objective of this online platform is to bring together young people willing to acquire new skills with older people willing to feel useful and supplement their incomes. The services are proposed for around 15 euros/hour in a number of areas: cooking, sewing, knitting, do-it-yourself, mecanics, gardening and photography. To learn more about this online platform, click here.

Click here to see video footage from the BBC’s report from Seoul.
A special edition of the Czech Journal ‘Studia Pedagogica’ on Intergenerational Learning is now available

Articles include:

- The Future of Intergenerational Learning: Redefining the Focus?
- A Systematic Perspective on Intergenerational Learning: Theoretical and Empirical Findings
- A Family Business as a Space for Intergenerational Learning Interactions
- The Development of an Intergenerational Centre in the UK: How Several Generations Used the Centre and Interacted with(in) the Building
- Intergenerational Learning with ICT: A Case Study
- Together Old & Young: How Informal Contact between Young Children and Older People can lead to Intergenerational Solidarity
- Effects of Intergenerational Learning in a Small Manufacturing Company
- The Parent and Grandparents: Roles from the Perspective of Contemporary Czech Grandparents
- Review – Intergenerational Learning in Contemporary Europe.

To download any of these articles, click here.

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Resources

Europe’s Seven Best Cities for Intergenerational Travellers

About 44 percent of children take at least one trip a year with their grandparents. Those numbers are bound to keep growing as today’s generation of grandparents in their 50s, 60s and even 70s are more eager and able to travel than their own grandparents ever were. The greater distances between families certainly plays a role in the increasing number of intergenerational travellers.

Today, there are a multitude of options for intergenerational vacations. Here are some European cities and key experiences that appeal to travellers of all ages. Click here to learn more about the 7 best cities for Intergenerational Travellers.

Age Encounters: Exploring Age and Intergenerational Perceptions – Journal article

Age Encounters was a video documentary project wherein 10 younger people and 10 older people were asked questions about age; ageism; and their perception of the other generation, including challenges the other group might face and whether they could identify possibilities for solidarity between the two generations. It was found that most intergenerational relationships are respectful and occur within the family. Any lack of generational understanding appeared due to a lack of relationships outside of the family, leading to a reliance on assumptions and recognized stereotypes. When opportunities for intergenerational relationships and shared spaces were available, the stereotypes were not applied. To read the full article, click here.

Generations Working Together, Scotland – Call for Proposals

GWT is inviting proposals for presentations and workshops for their next national intergenerational conference taking place on Wednesday 8th March 2017, Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA, Scotland. Click here to learn more about the conference.