



CONFERENCE ON GOOD PRACTICES OF EMPOWERMENT THROUGH INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

Aims and objectives

The conference "Empowerment and intergenerational collaboration" wishes to share and promote approaches and practices that enhance active aging through intergenerational and intercultural collaboration. Such practices embrace three main objectives:

- To enhance activity, self-determination and community participation of seniors where seniors are active agents instead of being considered as needy of support
- To create connections between people of different generations (instead of isolating seniors in separate groups) and help people benefit from the experiences of different age groups.
- To reflect on European societies' cultural diversity (in terms of age, class, ethnicity, nationality etc.) and enhance the contact and collaboration across different cultural borders within our societies, contribute to the construction of a multicultural European identity.

Priority addressed

The following priorities of the Europe for Citizens' programme are addressed:

- Priority No 3. Intercultural dialogue
- Priority No 4. People's wellbeing in Europe: employment, social cohesion and sustainable development
- Priority No 5. Impact of EU policies in societies, with particular regards to the policy area which marks 2012: Active Aging

Target groups

- People after retirement not pursuing professional activities
- Researchers
- Community organizations
- NGOs
- Universities

Activities foreseen in the project:

a) 3 day conference in Budapest

The conference will include lectures, presentations, expos, round tables and workshops related to intergenerational dialogue, active aging and empowerment of the elderly.



The conference will be centered around the following topics:

- Empowerment and autonomy: this section will focus on projects where seniors are active agents (as opposed to subject in need of support). Projects using seniors as volunteers or as mentors are examples of this approach, but other good practices could be presented as well. We are also interested in general community empowerment techniques that can be used for the social integration of senior citizens and methods that can be used to raise the sense of self-worth in the target group. Self-organised, self-managed, self-sustainable projects are welcome.
- Aging in a multicultural Europe : European societies are diverse not only in terms of age, but also nationality, ethnicity, religion and many other aspects. This section would encompass approaches and project reflecting and playing on this cultural diversity, and making steps to enhance intergenerational / intercultural dialogue and coexistence.
- Creative aging: participating in arts and creative activities can be a powerful means to keep connected to each other, to the outside world and to our own basic needs for meaning, pleasure and focus. This section will focus on projects / approaches centered on different forms of art (visual, performing, writing etc).

All presentations will be 20 minute long. After the lectures there will be time for discussion as well. All workshops are interactive and 90 minutes long.

We will organize an expo at the end of the conference, where groups could be formed aiming at laying down the basis of possible future projects (e.g. senior volunteering exchange programmes).

b) Website

The website to be created during the project :

- will show the presentations given at the conference as well as other good practices regarding the topics of the conference
- will present step-by-step guides for its readers based on which they could evaluate how much time, what kind of personnel and what kind of actions are needed to carry out similar projects
- will offer a platform for the partners and for other interested parties to exchange information and to initiate joint projects in the field of active aging.

c) Guide book

We will prepare a guide book which will include:

- short descriptions of the projects and methods presented in the conference
- and step-by-step guides about the good practices
- personal stories and interviews of senior citizens who participated in the projects presented in the conference.



d) Short films

We will make short films of the workshops that could be later used for educational purposes by the project partners.

Duration of the project

15 months (August 2012 – October 2013)

Possible timing of the activities:

- September 2012: Launch of website
- December 2012: 3 day conference in Budapest
- June 2013: Launch of short films
- September 2013: Launch of guide book

Financing

The conference will be submitted for funding to the "Europe for citizens" programme and therefore partner organizations would benefit from a grant based on a lump sum to cover the costs of participation for 1-3 members of the organization.

How to participate

Please contact us to confirm your intent to participate by the **27th of January** with a short summary of the project you'd like to present / workshop you'd like to organise in the themes below:

- Empowerment, autonomy
- Aging in a multicultural Europe
- Creative aging

We ask you to fill in and send the partner identification form to us as well (it is attached to our email).

About the organisers

Elan Interculturel is an independent French association created in May 2008 by a group of psychologists and researchers interested in exploring diversity and making it a source of advantage. Elan's mission is to develop tools and practices to improve the quality of life of people living or working in multicultural environments: migrants, expatriates or professionals working in international / intercultural settings. Elan's interventions are based on the application of scientific theories in the disciplines of intercultural - cognitive and social psychology.



Contact: Vera Varhegyi
Email : info @ elaninterculturel.com
Phone : +33(0)6.69.02.95.55
Website : <http://www.elaninterculturel.com>

AKUT Foundation is a Hungarian nonprofit organisation. AKUT's mission is to help with the social inclusion of different types of socially disadvantaged groups, mainly by developing their self-care capabilities. AKUT puts special emphasis on working out and setting up local, community-based, sustainable projects. AKUT is a new organization but its staff has lots of experience, especially in research.

Contact person : Anna Racz
Email : racz.anna@gmail.com
Phone : +36204899012
Website : <http://akutfoundation.weebly.com/index.html>