

European Certificate in Intergenerational Learning (ECIL)

Newsletter No. 1

About the project



The ECIL Team



Intergenerational Learning

"The way that people of all ages can learn together and from each other. Intergenerational Learning (IL) is an important part of Lifelong Learning, where the generations work together to gain skills, values and knowledge. 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. IL is one way of addressing the significant demographic change we are experiencing across Europe and is a way of enhancing intergenerational solidarity through intergenerational practice (IP)." EMIL www.emil-network.eu

Considering this definition of IL, it is evident that when young and old people meet and share their experiences, work together, help each other or in any way act together there will typically be learning taking place. Mostly this will be informal learning when values and attitudes are involved. There can also be non-formal or informal learning when different generations meet at the workplace and share skills and knowledge. They will mostly be influenced by each other's attitudes and values at the same time.

A European Certificate in Intergenerational Learning (ECIL)

The aim of this project is to pilot a collection of intergenerational life-long learning training approaches developed in the UK with a number of European partners to develop a distance learning package that will be delivered throughout Europe.

There is a growing recognition of the need for intergenerational approaches to vocational learning that explore the skill sets, attitudes and competences of different cohorts of learners. However, there has been no systemic attempt to date to develop a structured, accredited approach to Intergenerational Lifelong Learning Programmes, particularly for the professional delivering these programmes.

This proposal has been developed with the partners of the Beth Johnson Foundation in EMIL (European Map of Intergenerational Learning) and builds on the needs assessments that led to 2012 being designated the European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

Project partner organisations:

**Beth Johnson Foundation, UK,
Third Age University, Ljubljana, SI,
University of Granada, Spain,
Association Generations, Sofia, BG,
Högskolan för Lärande och Kommunikation i
Jkpg AB, SE**

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ECIL News



www.bjf.org.uk



Message from

North Staffordshire, England

Ageing, Drama and Creativity: A unique training opportunity

Ages and Stages is collaboration between Keele University and the New Vic Theatre exploring the place of the theatre in representations and recollections of ageing in North Staffordshire. A dynamic programme of knowledge exchange and practical activities has been developed including; establishing an intergenerational theatre company at the New Vic; and developing, delivering and evaluating an inter-professional training course and resource materials.

The inter-professional training course will run from February-April 2013. The course is aimed at professionals working in fields such as health and social care; education; local government; arts organisations; and the voluntary sector.

Six workshops combine theory, research & practice:

- **Ageing, Drama and Creativity** - an introduction to the key course themes with practical exercises and examples to get participants thinking about ageing and social relationships across the life course
- **Ageing and Stereotyping** - a thematic workshop with practical exercises and examples focussing on images of ageing, ageism and stereotypes
- **Understanding Intergenerational relationships** - a thematic workshop with practical exercises and examples exploring attitudes between the generations
- Attendance at one of the four performances by the intergenerational Ages and Stages Theatre Company and completion of an agreed **practical exercise**
- **Intergenerational Practice, Drama and Creativity I** - a task-oriented workshop giving participants the opportunity to focus on their own intergenerational practice or professional context
- **Intergenerational Practice, Drama and Creativity II** - continuation of session five: participants have the opportunity to apply what they have learnt

The Beth Johnson Foundation will be supporting the workshop on understanding intergenerational relationships. The course is being evaluated and a case study will be completed post evaluation for the ECIL resource library. For further information visit the websites: www.keele.ac.uk/agesandstages/ and www.newvictheatre.org.uk/

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www.univerza3.si

Message from Slovenia

Breeching the generational gap with intergenerational learning in Slovenia

Slovenia is a small European country sharing borders with Austria, Italy, Croatia and Hungary. As in most European countries intergenerational relationships are well preserved within families, while intergenerational social ties and bonds are getting loose. Intergenerational learning and education therefore plays an important role in bringing generations together. Nevertheless, we feel that generational ties depend on the state of equality or inequality in society. And these are the topics that are discussed in most of our educational events organised for different generations, and what matters most, with their help. One of the last events titled '*This world is worth learning together*' took place at the Third Age University of Ljubljana bringing together young secondary school students and older third age university students.

69 older and younger students together with three experts from Slovenian Third Age University and the national coordinator of the European year 2012 participated in this event. The name of the event was coined from Frane Milčinski –Ježek, a famous national poet and playwright's poem '*This World is World Being Sung About*'.

11 young students split into three groups and joined three study circles at the U3A, two of them were study circles of English and one study circle was about gaining digital photo skills. These study circles had been chosen intentionally, since they were all about general skills needed by all generations. This allowed the young students to join in and to fit into the group of older students quite easily.

The audience was greeted by the national coordinator of the European Year 2012, who presented the aims of the year, putting in focus intergenerational solidarity.

The event ended up with the presentation of films and photos produced by younger students during the learning sessions. The authors of the short films were invited to comment on their resulting creations and selection of film moments



www.ugr.es

Message from Spain

New paper on intergenerational programmes

In December 2012, the journal *Poiésis* published the paper titled *Programas intergeneracionales: reflexiones generales a través del análisis DAFO* [Intergenerational programs: General reflections through a SWOT analysis]. Alongside the paper, M.E. Domínguez, a psychogerontologist with a long tradition in this topic, delves into the weaknesses and strengths of these programmes and suggests ways to improve them.

Intergenerational programmes: The importance of adequate planning

Noemi Gonzalez is an intergenerational specialist living in Granada, Southern Spain. She is responsible for the intergenerational programme 'Generations in Atarfe'. In the framework of ECIL, this program has just been selected as one of 13 intergenerational learning promising practices in the country. Along with an interview by a local newspaper, released on February 1st, Noemí explained that proper planning of intergenerational programmes is key for a successful experience. The whole interview can be reached through this link: [Diálogo intergeneracional, cuando caen las barreras - Salud ideal](#)

ENIL Network: Next international conference in Spain

Cuenca, a Spanish city located in the centre region of the country, will welcome international participants to the next conference of the *European Network of Intergenerational Learning* (ENIL), scheduled for October 16th-19th, 2013. According to its partners, the main aim of ENIL is to promote Intergenerational Learning by bringing together and supporting sustainable, effective practice in the field and by facilitating the exchange of ideas and expertise beyond individual projects, and by creating a mechanism for practitioners to influence policy and practice.

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Message from Sweden

ActivAge

Like many European countries, Sweden is facing a generation shift in the workforce. At the same time there is a political discussion about raising the retirement age. From this perspective, it has become even more important to discuss intergenerational learning and opportunities of learning later in life.

One attempt to highlight the importance of older people's learning is the establishment of the network ActivAge. ActivAge involves three organisations; Encell, The School of Health Science and The County Council in Jönköping. The aim of the network is to contribute to the development of knowledge about older people's learning. Among other things, the network has formed a study circle called "Senior Doctoral Students" and published a book about learning later in life. At the moment the network is planning a workshop in March to discuss older people's learning and also take part in arranging the annual conference Swedage; a platform for research on ageing, in October.

Workshop on creative methods for intergenerational learning

On October 24-25 Encell - National centre for lifelong learning – at Jönköping University in Sweden, arranged one of ten workshops in European countries on the topic intergenerational learning. In Sweden, the theme for the workshop was "Creative methods for intergenerational learning in organisations". During the spring 2013, Encell works with mapping intergenerational activities in Sweden. For example Winnet Sweden, a non-profit organisation that conducts public opinion and spreads awareness about equality, has several projects to involve young people in the discussion about the future development. In Kungsbacka, Winnet has initiated an intergenerational learning project where young people and entrepreneurs meet to learn about social media. In Jönköping, Winnet will arrange a "think tank" online, to involve young people in societal development by creating discussions with regards to the future for living in the countryside. Encell will later on present the mapping of intergenerational projects on the website.



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