

# European Certificate in Intergenerational Learning

(ECIL) – Newsletter No.2

## Update on ECIL



Over the past few months, partners have all been involved in reviewing current training materials from the UK and undertaking a critical analysis of how these materials need to be developed to meet partners' national context and the wider European context. Partners met in Ljubljana to review the training materials and have agreed upon a common set of learning outcomes and standards for the material. Partners are currently translating training materials in their own languages to be piloted in their country.

Over the next two months – June & July, 2 days pilots will be held in Slovenia, Spain, UK and Bulgaria to test the training and implementing of the project's intergenerational approach in adult and VET education. The aim is to test the existing draft training programme and delivery methodology in 4 countries through interactive pilots with potential end users. All pilots will be attended by a minimum of 10 participants from each project partner country that have relevant experience and expertise in life-long learning. Included in this group will be potential tutors that will support the development of the training as a distance learning package. As a result of the pilot findings, the training materials will be revised and outstanding issues for further investigation and testing identified.



This newsletter includes:

- Update on ECIL project
- Description of EMIL/ECIL collaboration
- Messages from all partners



For more information about ECIL and how you can get involved, contact: Louise Middleton, ECIL Project Coordinator – [louise@bjf.org.uk](mailto:louise@bjf.org.uk)

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## EMIL/ECIL collaboration

A sustainable relationship between the project ECIL and European network EMIL (European Map of Intergenerational Learning) is now being cultivated.



*“At a time when so much news is about potential breakdown and conflict between people of different ages this is a wonderful opportunity to make a positive contribution to building a skilled European workforce to empower people of all ages to make a better Europe together”. – Alan Hatton-Yeo, BJJF*

EMIL attended the latest ECIL meeting in Ljubljana to discuss future collaborations on this European project. EMIL’s role in this exciting project includes – EMIL has dedicated some of its project coordinators time to pursue this partnership further, including EMIL becoming the host of the course once it has been established and piloted in a number of countries and a dedicated space on the EMIL home page (including the ECIL project logo) to provide its members with information about ECIL including country report on the current status of Intergenerational Education and Learning in partners’ country.

An update of future collaborations with ECIL will be available on this website.

## Message from UK



Designating 2012 as the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations was intended to raise awareness of the contribution that older people make to society and encourage policymakers and relevant stakeholders at all levels to take action in strengthening solidarity between generations. With that in mind, EMIL placed a call for proposals to run a series of roundtable events across Europe which brought together an invited audience of professionals, older and younger people to consider a number of key questions from their national perspective. Each event produced a summative report of its discussions, including recommendations for creating a ‘Society for All Ages’. These summative reports are now available on the EMIL website.

Since then, EMIL has done an analysis of all the reports; findings from that form the content of final report. As you might expect from any cross-cultural comparison the differences are as illuminating as the areas of synergy. What was striking was the consistent picture that emerged of all nations seeing strong relationships between the generations as essential for the future and the concern that was expressed between the generations for models of mutual support and engagement.

*“Through the series of roundtables described here, some clear priorities emerged for future work, both for the network and for others. A number of these priorities align closely with the European Year’s foci of employment, community participation and healthy living. They highlight the importance of ensuring national and European ageing strategies do not focus solely on older people.”- Andrew Barnet & Luisa Valle, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation*

Findings from this final report will be presented and discussed further at a number of upcoming conferences and is planned to be published in various publications. To read the full report, go to the EMIL website. If you would like to discuss the report further, please contact Julie Melville, EMIL Project Coordinator: [EMIL@bjf.org.uk](mailto:EMIL@bjf.org.uk) or (44) 1782 844036

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[www.univerza3.si](http://www.univerza3.si)

## Message from Slovenia

Generations, Intergenerational Learning & Art In Slovenia - Mixages, A Conference In Ljubljana, May, 2013

Mixages - a Grundtvig partnership project, is about how different generations, preferably those who are far apart in age, can be brought together and connect in common work and learning. The conference was hosted by ZDUS, Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Societies and was co-organised by KUBIA, one of the partners in the project. The conference was devoted to both intergenerational learning and art. Dušana Findeisen, a member of the ECIL project, was one of the two invited speakers and she delivered a keynote lecture titled Generations, intergenerational learning and Art in Slovenia. Dušana Findeisen introduced the audience to different providers of intergenerational learning in Slovenia and to the artistic activities of different generations at Slovenian Third Age University.



Slovenian students of andragogy got interested in intergenerational learning, Ljubljana, May 2013

Influenced by ECIL, Slovenian postgraduate students of andragogy from University of Ljubljana, Department of Pedagogy and Andragogy have become interested in intergenerational learning and the issue of intergenerational relationships and co-operation. Before, intergenerational learning had been merely a research topic, discussed in master degree theses and scientific articles. Students attended lectures, prepared a visual presentation demonstrating intergenerational cooperation and learning. For the first time, theory and practice of intergenerational learning have become a part of the study and curriculum.



[www.ugr.es](http://www.ugr.es)

## Message from Spain

New training for intergenerational practitioners:

Ten Spanish organizations under the leadership of AUPEX (Association of Popular Universities in Extremadura), and with the financial support of the Cajasol Foundation, have just launched a new resource for training intergenerational specialists. One of the main features of this training is that it has been approached as an on-line process in which organizations involved will share their expertise in the field. In 2012, these organizations were awarded the first 'Better Together' awards which were granted to intergenerational projects being implemented in the country. The first edition of this scheme is 40 hours of training which is scheduled to take place in June 2013. For more information regarding this initiative, please send an email to [isfe@aupex.org](mailto:isfe@aupex.org)

Training for inclusive and intergenerational leisure - After 6 years of successful implementation of the intergenerational project "One Home for All", the moment has arrived to formally share the experience. Some of the professionals who have been involved in the implementation of this project, whose main interest is promoting inclusive and intergenerational leisure time, will be leading workshops on psychodrama, bio-dance, improvisation, role playing, art therapy, and other strategies for foster enriching interpersonal relationships and intergenerational communication whenever working with diverse groups of people. Click here for [more information](#) on these upcoming workshops.

Intergenerational and interdisciplinary studies - In October 2013, the 'Program on Interdisciplinary Studies from a Gender and Life-Course Perspective', organized in Madrid by La Salle Centre for University Studies, will start. This new lifelong and intergenerational learning initiative aims at advancing our capacity to plan life-course policies and programs that are sensitive to gender issues. Click here for [more information](#) about this course.

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## Message from Sweden

Encell – National centre for lifelong learning – at Jönköping University in Sweden together with the County Council in Jönköping arranged a workshop on the topic - *Live and learn throughout life*.

During the day participants listened to a variety of speakers who presented different projects and activities which have been initiated to improve the living conditions and learning opportunities for the older generations in Jönköping.

Anette Nilsson, one of the speakers, talked about a project called “Passion for life” - the aim of the project is to create good conditions for a healthy living among older people and the core concept of “Passion for life” is the dialogue. Through dialogue, participants are given the opportunity to identify their life patterns and according to Anette Nilsson, this is the starting point for changing a person’s life. Another speaker, Margareta Ågren held a presentation about writing circles, where older people can participate to write and capture their life stories.

After the opening presentations workshop participants were asked to discuss their personal views on lifelong learning in smaller groups. To *stay curious* and to *experience the joy of learning* were two recurrent answers when the discussions were summed up by the moderator.

The day ended with a presentation by the Swedish author Ludwig Rasmusson. During his presentation he shared his vision about “the ageless society”. He also spoke about a darker side of ageing; depression and increasing class inequalities among older people in Sweden.

Responsible for compiling of the ECIL newsletter –

Association Generations, Sofia

[www.generations-bg.eu](http://www.generations-bg.eu)



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## Message from Bulgaria

For the fifth consecutive year, the Tulip Foundation invited many civil society organizations all over the country to celebrate the initiative - European Day of Solidarity between Generations, on April 29. This campaign, every spring, was the promotion of various joint activities for people of all ages, attracted much public attention to the concept of human solidarity and intergenerational relationships. This year the campaign involved 26 organizations from 18 settlements with various initiatives.



The voluntary days of the employees of AIG-Bulgaria is a good example from the initiative organized by the Tulip Foundation. Many hours were spent helping civil society organization such as the Foundation for life, working with people with disabilities. The Association stated “We are also here” for children and young people with disabilities and Association “Donka Paprikova” which is caring out for a hospice for old people.

