

## **Slovenian Third Age theorised intergenerational learning and education and contributed to the programme of the conference**

InterGenerationes

Connecting Generations Across Europe

A new challenge for international youth work

Ageing Society brings new challenges and new chances for international youth work. Active ageing without connecting older and younger generations is simply not possible.

By encouraging cooperation of generations in society the threatening clash between generations can be prevented. Young people can take the lead in restructuring the dialogue with older generations about a sustainable future. The international conference InterGenerationes in February 2011 in Krzyżowa, Poland discussed ideas, concepts and methods to introduce and promote intergenerational debate and co-operation within international youth work.

Consolidating solidarity between the generations is one of the priorities of the European Union. Securing a sustainable social and economic basis for public and private education and pension systems is a must for all generations. The 70 participants from 14 countries at the conference acknowledged, that international youth work can play a strong and positive role in Connecting Generations Across Europe . The international youth work sector should be opened up for intergenerational learning programs.

‘An intergenerational educational program is not just about studying a common topic,’ said Assit. Prof. Dr. Dusana Findeisen from the Slovenian Third Age University. It is much more about learning how to create intergenerational understanding and intergenerational ties. Best practices in Slovenia point into the promising direction of generations learning together and constructing new knowledge together on the basis of reciprocal, mutual and experimental learning, which is also very common in international youth exchanges. As a follow up of the conference, a one week learning event will take place in May in Krzyżowa. Participants from Poland, Germany, Slovenia and France aged 19 to 99 will meet each other, work, study and have fun together, exchange experiences and develop new knowledge. Hopefully this will be a step in overcoming prejudices and age related stereotypes.

The EU has decided to celebrate 2012 as a Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity the international youth work sector has a lot to offer. Synergies between youth work, adult education and senior citizens work can be uncovered and made productive. An inclusive society requires a strong dialogue between the generations, also in international exchange.

More information:

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