Alijana Šantej Slovenian Third Age University

Festival of Knowledge and Culture in Later Life as a Community Practice

"Older people are interpreters of culture" argues Jung. Older people possess knowledge, pragmatic or experiential knowledge and knowledge about relationships. Older people belong to several cultures simultaneously: culture of the past and culture of the present, their views are important for anticipating the future. In addition to that, there is no active ageing without cultural bridges between generations. These were basic Slovenian Third Age University's assumptions while creating International Festival of Knowledge and Culture in Later Life which has become both an important *community practice* and *a community of practice*. It involves learning as participation in the practice of social communities, constructing both individual and social identity. The participants in the festival (students of U3As, associations of pensioners, members of non-governmental associations) established (1) a common field (culture and knowledge) inspiring them to participate and giving meaning to their activities, (2) a community which functions as a social fabric for their learning and (3) the practice itself which in our case is the International Festival of Knowledge and Culture in Later Life. The purpose of this contribution is to discuss the above asumptions and to present the concept and the implemention of the festival.