Slovenian Third Age University

International News

Slovenian Third Age University turns thirty-two

Slovenian Third Age University, a nation-wide set not-for-profit network of 51 third age universities has turned thirty-two. Founded back in 1984 in socialist and industrial times by two university teachers specialised in andragogy, it is considered as the very first attempt at the democratisation of adult education in former Yugoslavia. It was a breakthrough in Yugoslav and Slovenian adult education introducing education for living, education for volunteering as well as practice of older adult education, simultaneously developing its own older adult education theory.

Its theoretical findings have been based on participative research and mostly small-scale research studies. Moreover, Slovenian Third Age University has lead to shaping new university subjects (socio-cultural animation and education for local development) and other nation- wide -set initiatives i.e. *Summer School for Adult Educators for Local Development* (with international participation). *Spring School of Young Andragogues* (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Ljubljana), *a network of study circles* (developed and supported by the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education), literacy studies (UNESCO ALPHA project), intergenerational learning and intergenerational practices devoted to intergenerational reading together with Faculty of Philosophy (We see, we hear, we read together), Each-one-teach-one network of tandem learning developed within U3As and in companies. For two years now Slovenian Third Age University has been annually organising the

International Festival of Knowledge and Culture of Older People. Slovenian Third Age university has been a national coordinator of some twenty EU and other projects and a founding member or a member of European organisations and networks (ie. DANET, Danube networkers for Europe, EMIL A Map of Intergenerational Learning, ForAge,Age Platform Europe, The Danube Civil Society Forum, etc.). Presently the third age universities have over 20 000 older students, more than 1000 study circle leaders and lecturers (thus more than 1000 jobs were created) more than 1000 volunteers all active in learning, education and local development. Several scientific and professional monographs have been published among the most recent ones being Characteristics of older adult education, etc. New educational and training programmes have been developed, new fields of activity introduced (education for and volunteering in public institutions, active ageing guidance, advocacy, integrated counselling for volunteers, an 80-hour programme of specialization for course leaders).

Dušana Findeisen

http://www.slovenska-univerza3.si/index.php?id=44&lang=sl

Light, camera, action. CINAGE is an awsome EU project

CINAGE is a multilateral EU Grundtvig project (supported by European Commission) dealing with European films, active ageing and new social roles for older people. Active ageing in different EU countries has been or will be analysed in several ways. First, through a comparative analysis of the national laws supporting or not supporting different elements of active ageing as defined by the World Health Organisation. Second, through the selection of contemporary European films

dealing with "active" old age, made against the selected criteria, or to put it differently, the films were selected for their featuring various competencies needed for active ageing (maintaining and protecting health, being in emotional relationships, participating in economic and social development, using new technologies, participating in informal, non-formal and formal learning, participating in public matters and decision making processes, etc.) The objective of the the Slovenian U3A and other CINAGE partners (the coordinating AidLearn, Portugal, Associazione Centro Studi Cittá di Foligno iz Iatlije, Italy, and Leeds Metropolitan University, UK) has been to find out whether active ageing is or is not present in European films, knowing that films are much stronger vehicles of old age images than books. The CINAGE project is also devoted to developing a manual for older adults and a Guide for adult educators in the field of film making and active ageing. To finish, a pilot course will be delivered in Slovenia and older students will shoot 12 short films on their active ageing. Members of the Slovenian focus group, which screened and analysed the twelve selected films said that films teach about alternative ways of ageing. They also underlined that screening and discussing films about old age should be intergenerational. Consequently, Slovenian U3A started thinking about setting up an intergenerational film club in co-operation with the Society of students of Andragogy and Pedagogy.

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https://www.facebook.com/cinageproject
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe1OWu6pEM4

Slovenian Third Age University Goes Danubian

Slovenian U3A is one of the founding members of the Danube Civil Society Forum and the Danube-Networkers for Europe (DANET), a new European not-for-profit association of educational organisations, dealing with and promoting education and scientific research as well as exchange and cooperation in the following areas:

learning and education in later life, social participation, cooperation and dialogue of generations- in Europe and particularly in the Danube Region. In the flyer can be read "DANET is meant to give new impetus to the development and implementation of common European policies on social development, social participation, learning, education and intergenerational dialogue. Moreover, DANET aims at supporting experts in these areas."
You are kindly invited to join the association in its endeavours and become its collective or individual member.

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European projects are beneficial for Europe and European countries

Final conference of the EU project Personal Town Tours (supported by European Commission) took place in Ljubljana at the Town Hall and was hosted by one of the seven project partners, Slovenian U3A. In order to get familiar with a town "one has to understand how people there work, love and die" said Albert Camus. Seventy participants from seven European countries agree with this saying. Over two years organisations of older people have been preparing personal tours of their towns. Now that flyers and publications are finished, one can follow older Europeans showing their town on thematic tours through Mestre, Vicenza, Ruse, Ljubljana, Temisoara, Ulm. Preparing these tours. the Slovenian team of older students headed by Meta Kutin, a young architect , the author of the study programme *Squares, streets and buildings around us*, a new rather non conventional guide through Ljubljana was created uniting facts about cultural heritage with older students' personal stories around them. The reader can learn about already forgotten life in "caffes", meeting opera singers after performance and offereing

them roses over a cup of coffee in common, the route of the Ljubljana salad, etc. The Slovenian team is intending to pursuit their studies and set up an agency of cultural tourism offering personal town tours.

Dušana Findeisen

http://www.personaltowntours.eu/

ECIL, learning about generations and intergenerational practices soon on-line

"There is a growing recognition of the need for intergenerational approaches to vocational learning that explore the skill sets, attitudes and competencies of different cohorts of learners. However, there has been no systemic attempt to date to develop a structured, accredited approach to ILLP, particularly for the professional delivering these programmes." ECIL is a European project supported by European Commission, stemming out of EMIL a European Map of intergenerational learning supported by voluntary working of its members and Calouste Gulbenkian. The coordinator of the project Allan Hatton Yeo, from Beth Johnson Foundation, UK joined his efforts with other experts. Thus a basic face –to-face manual for setting up intergenerational practices was devised. Slovenian Third Age University ran a pilot training, modifying and upgrading the contents by its expertise in local development and community education, education for project development, management of NGOs, organising educational events, active ageing, identity at work place etc. The Spanish partner did the same in his way. The Bulgarian partner contributed the development of the platform for the programme to go on line. The Swedish partner is an expert in evaluation. Step by step, a

valuable result is being shaped: an on-line course in Slovene for those interested in intergenerational learning, in education about generations and learning on- line.

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http://www.ecileu.eu/

Will the policy of lifelong learning continue increasing social differences?

Educating older people supports local, economic and social development, and ensures social cohesion. Dušana Findeisen, who used to be an Age Platform expert, reports on a Slovenian Third Age Universities Network's meeting questioning the role and impact of lifelong learning policy. Though this policy is positive, it can increase the gap among different social groups and older people. Would you like to know in what circumstances and why?

http://www.age-platform.eu/latest-news-on-active-ageing-en-gb-6/1196-will-the-policy-of-lifelong-learning-continue-increasing-social-differences

Intergenerational Solidarity for Cohesive and Sustainable Societies

Following the very successful conference organised by the Slovenian EU Presidency and the European Commission in Brdo on 28-29 April 2008 on Intergenerational Solidarity for Cohesive and Sustainable Societies, the conference Steering Group of which Slovenian Third Age University was a member, decided to publish a brochure on the outcomes of the conference and the way forward.

http://www.age-platform.eu/latest-news-on-active-ageing-en-gb-6/1196-will-the-policy-of-lifelong-learning-continue-increasing-social-differences