

LIFELONG LEARNING, WORK AND DEVELOPMENT- THE FOUNDATION OF SILVER ECONOMY

2nd Symposium Of Slovenian Third Age University On Silver Economy
Ljubljana, 6th June 2017

Memorandum

Silver Economy is considered as an opportunity for real life co-operation of active generations as to improve the quality of their life, support social development, economic growth and foster competitiveness of European industrialised and knowledge based countries.

Having established that till 2039 the number of young people will not be rising, while by that year the number of the 65+ will have increased considerably,

having established that ageing is a combination of individual, social and environmental settings,

having established that ageing /long-lived society will bring about far-reaching, differentiated challenges and opportunities, leading to changes of unprecedented dimensions,

having established that long-lived society will be an achievement of civilisation and development on condition new paradigms of social and economic development are taken into account,

having established that no society can be healthy, if one quarter of its population is cast off, squeezed to the edge of society, and consequently, on the verge of becoming destructive to others or themselves. Moreover, the position of older generations and their active ageing exert a strong impact on other generations,

bearing in mind that the vitality of society depends on maintaining or/and including older generations in the mainstream, i.e. a quarter of population,

bearing in mind that pension reform, which is a social investment, will change the position of older people and other generations bringing about a different architecture of the pension system that needs to remain sustainable. It is essential that *all* citizens be included in the pension system,

having established that in Slovenia work being highly valued, university teachers and researchers as well as other socio-professional categories like craftsmen have spent their lifetime working hard to the extent that they have not developed leisure time activities. Consequently, their retirement is a choc, possibly leading some of them to early death, and/or others to deprivation or grey economy. Moreover, due to abrupt retirement, their competencies get lost while, human, social and cultural capital of all citizens is crucial for the competitiveness of a country.

bearing in mind that in different European countries measures have been taken towards partial and gradual retirement combined with pre-retirement education and corporate volunteering,

bearing in mind that older people's work creates new work opportunities for all generations and that precocity of the new forms of work means also the necessary flexibility,

having established that lifelong education is a life process which has to be accompanied by another lifelong process: lifelong work,

having established that within silver economy, older people are ready to contribute towards innovations, production and consumption of new products and services for better quality of their life and raising the competitiveness of economy in Europe,

having established that older people require to be equal partners in social interaction being ready to participate in social and economic life and development,

having established that current definitions of silver economy consider older people primarily as consumers and a source of increased income, this attitude giving room to re-medicalisation of old age and to increased ageism on socio-economic level (exploitation, marginalisation, deprivation) and on symbolic and cultural level (systematic use of stereotypes in public policies, communication and interpretation).

Slovenian Third Age University and its Group for the promotion of Silver Economy having initiated and organised the symposium, representatives of the Government of Slovenia, representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities RS, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport RS, Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Organizations, Chamber of Craft of Slovenia, representatives of NGOs, representatives of Slovenian Third Age University Network, seized the opportunity and jointly dedicated their efforts towards **paying an increasing attention to the shaping of a more humanistic concept and practices of silver economy.**

They decided to continue creating suitable underlying political conditions with regard to silver economy, by continuous exchange of ideas, public campaigning, lecturing and writing on the topic of silver economy as a holistic social and economic phenomenon.

The objective of the participants in the symposium and their networking is to improve the quality of life of older people and possibilities for real life activities and co-operation among generations.

To be active towards abolishing current legal limitations imposed on older people's right and access to work and to draw attention to harmful old age stereotyping in different policy areas.

To continue being active towards changing the mentality in relation to older people by approaching different old age issues and promoting understanding of older people/and other generations by older people themselves and other generations

To continue inventing and implementing practices and structures enabling the participation of older people: shared economy, networking of older people, inventive products services offered and also consumed by older people etc.

To support equal access of generations to social resources (work, accommodation, health, transport, culture, education) on condition older people are not considered only as consumers but also as producers and innovators in silver economy.

To contribute towards creating a greater general awareness of the holistic nature of silver economy on local, national and international level

Done in Ljubljana, 10th June, 2017