

## Silver eEconomy Development Meeting in Ljubljana

Cross-border eCollaboration in the eRegions  
and Slovenian Third Age University

The meeting was attended by a variety of stakeholders. It was jointly organised and took place in Ljubljana on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016. It resulted in the following preliminary statements and recommendations.

### **Silver economy**

- will account for 5% of GDP by 2060.
- reaching out to all sectors of production, distribution and consumption, is not a separated sector of economy,
- is related to ageing society which is a global phenomenon, requires global approach and offers global possibilities,
- higher life expectancy and ageing society are challenging. They offer advantages, like new work places, new services for older people (e-medicine, wellness centres, leisure time activities, etc.)
- Is connected with active ageing,
- should take into account an array of older people's needs, also higher needs (cognitive, emotional, social, the need for values) to be met by silver economy. Needs are also intergenerational,
- is an innovative economy based on innovations of innovators who should be of all ages in the ageing society,
- is based on lifelong experience of older people in different social roles at work and elsewhere,
- should struggle against age discrimination that concerns both young people (who do not have enough experience) and older people who do have experience but are squeezed out of the labour market nevertheless,
- requires equal access to training and education regardless of age,
- requires flexible forms of work and lifelong work possibilities,
- urgently needs changes of legislation preventing older people from working and it requires greater social fairness on the distributive, cultural and symbolic level,
- like active ageing is based on individual needs and abilities

## **Recommendations**

Silver economy requires a vision of old age on which to base strategies;

Silver economy has to be defined and addressed holistically, attracting an array of stakeholders and not only older people;

Silver economy should focus on normal ageing, not only pathological ageing, loss of mobility, autonomy etc. To this end silver economy has to be a matter of research and public campaigning combating stereotypes about old age, abilities and needs of older people;

National publicity on active ageing and silver economy spots are welcome;

Older people should be educated to understand their needs and abilities concerning accommodation, finances, etc.;

Non-constitutional inequality of retirees is to be abolished, especially craftsmen who lose 25 % of their pension if they continue working after retirement which is currently not the case of those who work on the basis of authorship contracts;

Different bonuses (20% of the future pension paid out) exist for those who continue working till the age of 65, but not beyond. Those who remain in employment beyond the statutory retirement age should all have this possibility;

Structures for transferring craftsmen's knowledge and skills onto children and young people should be created and supported. (French example is Outils en mains). To this purpose real craftsmen and real workshops, real equipment are needed. And a network should be created. National and international calls for tenders would be welcome;

French government has been supporting shooting films presenting different crafts, based on interviews with craftsmen;

International networking of older people is to be supported creating needs of growth that can be met by silver economy;

Networking of non-governmental organisations is essential, and is to be encouraged by public programmes;

E-platform of U3A's universities in the Balkan region would be welcome;

The issue of ageing should be a part of the e-cooperation of municipalities without borders;

Organisations of older people and for older people and non-governmental organisations based on voluntary and professional endeavours like Slovenian Federation of societies of pensioners or Third Age Universities should be supported in their functions. Their non-profit character should be recognised;

Mentoring schemes based also on older people's voluntary work are to be established. Older people remain in part time employment mentoring part time employed young people;

In companies skills older people have have to be documented as much as possible;

Creating a Senior Experts Service (counselling and guidance, development) has been suggested for a long time but never put into practice;

Labour legislation adapted to contemporary social and economic developments is urgently needed (flexible work, telework, part time work). Present legislation is putting too much pressure on the generations in the middle who are supposed to take care of age dependent groups;

Encouragement of generations to get familiar with each other is a matter of educational programmes in schools, non-governmental organisations etc.

National campaigning improving the image of older generations is necessary;

Social and corporate responsibility have to be supported, improving voluntary work of young generations;

Organising training and education on silver economy for personal managers on pre-retirement, retirement etc. can be taken on by different organisations /companies;

Politicians and journalists have a responsibility not to increase emotions of fear and hostility among generations focusing on the positive side silver economy (new professions, new jobs).

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