

**DANET's Mission and Activities Presented at the Final Forage Network  
Conference in Oporto  
Oporto 7th-8th November 2014**

Dušana Findeisen presented DANET, Danube-Workers for Europe, a European society for learning in later life, social participation and intergenerational dialogue at the final ForAge conference New Directions and New Learning in Later Life in Oporto. The conference was attended by delegates from EU countries, Brasil, Nepal, local, national, European and transnational organisations among which RUTIS-the Portuguese network of third age universities, UNESCO, Age Platform Europe etc. Pedro Mota Soares, minister for solidarity, employment and social protection addressed the conference and issues of old age. Over two years the ForAge data base has become a reference for educators, researchers, decision makers. Dušana Findeisen who in the DANET association covers issues of intergenerational learning lectured on two topics: on-line intergenerational learning and past learning from student movements of the 60s.

**Romania Has Lost Two Million Inhabitants. What to do to stop the Exodus?  
Ulm, 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

In Ulm has just finished the project Beloved Danube (Germ. Die Gewollte Donau), to which contributed members of the DANET European Association. The project was finished in the days of the Danube Festival. The participants got familiar with the Danube Strategy and made an overview of the possibilities for further co-operation in the region (new jobs based on the existing crafts, but changes with a lot of new knowledge). Participants also paid a study visit to a number of community institutions. The issue of young people's exodus was raised again. Romani, for instance, had 24 million inhabitants, today two million less. More than 2000 people left Slovenia. In knowledge based societies, the exodus is a real problem. DANET is planning to devote its attention to this issue in the immediate future.



They are DANET (From the ECIL News No 6)

### **Message from Slovenia**

#### **DANET Is Against Brain Drain and For Intergenerational Dialogue**

Slovenian Third Age University became a founding member of DANET, Danube Networkers for Europe, a new European association for older people's learning, participation and intergenerational dialogue in Europe and particularly in the Danube basin. The association unites organisations from a number of countries in the Danube basin. Established under the German law and based in ULM, Germany, the association is meant to support education and scientific exchange in the fields of its concern.

Naturally, on several occasions, the most recent being the Danube Festival in July, ECIL was presented and discussed. All who were present agreed that intergenerational co-operation and learning as well as programmes supporting them, are being badly needed since the countries of the Danube basin have been experiencing brain drain. For instance Romania has lost two million out of twenty-four million inhabitants over the last two years, Slovenia two thousand people out of two million inhabitants etc. The situation is not due only to economic reasons, but also to the fact that in knowledge based society people move to regions with more cognitive resources. Therefore intergenerational learning and co-operation are needed, the kind of learning that would help younger people stay in the country where they were educated, through creating new and interesting jobs. It was suggested that old skills along the Danube should be identified and that excellent designers should be united with craftsmen and younger people, creating new products.

To sum up, structures for intergenerational learning and education are needed in order to re-establish intergenerational ties and intergenerational communities. Namely, throughout history relating to others, belonging to community of all generations has been a way to get protection against hardships and to get recognition from the others, to shape one's identity and to learn from each other. But, the greater autonomy and freedom, the less we feel indebted to previous generations and the less they are sensible to the fate of future generations.

### **Solidarity is Appreciated. Why? Simply Because it is Needed**

**Ljubljana, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Collecting money and commodities for the inhabitants of the flooded localities on the territory of former Yugoslavia, which was performed together by Slovenian Third Age University and DANET, Danube-Networkers for Europe, a European Association for learning in later life, social participation and intergenerational dialogue yielded results. Toiletries and cosmetics, food for babies etc. were handed over to Slovenian Red Cross. The action demonstrated that there is no need for fear. We are surrounded by those who are ready to make a present of their time, work, knowledge. Culture and material goods simply because somebody is in need.

### **Learning for Creating a Society for all Generations. DANET's Position Paper Discussed in Sofia**

**Sofia, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

In the ECIL, European Certificate of Intergenerational Learning project supported by European Commission took part the final conference on the topic Learning to make a Society for All Generations. Partner organisations presented to the international audience ECIL- the on-line programme of intergenerational learning. (Ann-Kristin Boström, Mariano Sanchez, Dušana Findeisen). Alan Hatton Yeo dealt with the social aspect of intergenerational learning and its aims. To develop relationships, mutuality, solidarity. It is not about older people working for younger people or younger people offering services to older people. What is important is creating knowledge in common. There have been quick changes in our societies. The speed

of these changes has been leading to the fragmentation of society. Everybody has his or her own hopes, forgetting that there is a before and an after...Lifelong employment does not exist anymore. If we fail young people, we will fail older people too and vice versa. This is an important message also for DANET, Danube-Workers for Europe, whose position paper was briefly discussed at this conference.

### **Slovenian Third Age University goes Danubian**

Slovenian U3A is one of the founding members of the Danube Civil Society Forum and the Danube-Workers 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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