

Newsletter 6 October 2016



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## DANET'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOLLOWED THE DANET BOARD MEETING, ULM THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016

DANET was established two years ago upon a common decision of its members wanting to have a stable structure for the continuation of their close and long lasting cooperation in a number of EU projects: Senior, Personal Town Tours, The wanted Danube. The latter had gained two of the highest European awards.

DANET is devoted to education of older people, social participation and intergenerational dialogue in Europe and particularly in the Danube region, where it is meant to support the implementation of the Danube Strategy. Therefore, it is not stunning, that DANET regularly participates in the Danube Festival and in an array of events taking place in its framework. This year these were the conference *Tastes of the Danube: Let's Taste them* and the well attended *Breakfast on the Danube*, the river uniting countries and the bridge of the event uniting two German "Ländern".

The Board Meeting took place at the *Family Centre* in the old town. The meeting having been duly convened, Carmen Stadelhoffer called the Board to order at 13.45 and the business of the meeting could begin.

Were discussed current topics on the agenda: the membership fees which will be lowered due to the present circumstances in the region. The old Board was dissolved and a new one was elected. The work done was overviewed. The

Association was active on the grass root and political level. Board members approached national and European politicians for the benefit of DANET'S cause. They participated in some political events and in national or international

ost

conferences. Plans were set for the future seminar (2017) to be held in Bad Urach. There the topic will be the Future of Europe and the role of the civil society in creating it. The Board members reported on the EU project proposals where DANET will be a partner like (CUME) which is to deal with cultural mediating in



museums. Another project proposal however concerns social media. The Board meeting was followed by a general assembly. DANET was joined by new organisations.

## PEOPLE AND CULTURES ALONG THE DANUBE ARE A HOPE FOR EUROPE- THE CONFERENCE TASTES OF THE DANUBE WAS HELD IN ULM ON 8TH JUNE, 2016

“Researchers, practioners, civil structures should go hand in hand with economy” was one of the main messages of the conference. The Danube, the only river running from the West to East of Europe should not be a dividing but, on the contrary, a uniting border. The river merits the future of its past.

Civil society, social participation and their role were highly supported by *Gisela Erler* in her video address of the conference as well as by the two following

introductory addresses given by *Dr. Andreas Weber* Head of education from Baden Württemberg Stiftung and *Prof. Dr. Michael Weber*, President of Ulm University.

Keynote speakers touched upon the issues of food and bread, all in relation to the environment. There were several working groups. Their messages are now



contained in videos featuring on the project web page.

[http://tastes-of-danube.eu/bread\\_category/reports/](http://tastes-of-danube.eu/bread_category/reports/)

For most participating civil organisations Carmen Stadelhoffer, president of DANET and her team made it possible to contribute. The representative of the organisations, however, contributed their enthusiasm, knowledge, research and attention paid to various cultural and social aspects of the development along the

Danube. More: <http://tastes-of-danube.eu/>

## PAVLA RAPOŠA TAJNŠEK: TASTING THE DANUBE TRADITION

*Tastes of the Danube. Let's taste them, this is how the intergenerational and intercultural meeting we attended in ULM was titled. – Cultural heritage and diversity in terms of food are to be preserved - We should be careful about what and how we eat. -Traditional sources and ways of nourishment are getting replaced by food from supermarkets. We are still fed and connected by bread, which used to be staff food in our countries*

This year The 10th bi-annual Danube festival in Ulm had to do with food prepared and consumed along the Danube and rivers running into the Danube. For centuries there have been different civilizations and cultures along the longest European river. Due to the Sava, the Drava and the Mura, the longest and the largest Slovenian rivers, three thirds of the Slovenian territory belong to the Danubian regions. Slovenia shares with other Danubian countries geographical and other characteristics, ties and bonds. Now, bread is an important part of our common history and cultural heritage. The opulence of bread is still a symbol of welfare and happiness, while being short of bread means being hungry and poor.

At the meeting titled *Tastes of the Danube Let's taste them* devoted to intergenerational learning and socializing as well as intercultural meetings and creating ties and bonds, the central topic were bread and the culture of consuming it. The focus was on preserving cultural tradition and diversity in this field.

It is important what and how we eat since all aspects of human life are connected with food and social development. Food impacts our individual and social being. Countries that lack food are politically not sovereign. Therefore food has always been a cruel weapon in wars and revolutions.

For the first time in history we are faced with hyper production of food and it seems that food is over present in our lives. Nevertheless, we are not really aware of what and how we eat. Eating habits have not been changing enough and remain as they were in the past. *Prof. Franz Wuketits* argues that past developmental phases,

when there was not enough food, continue impacting us. There have been four developmental phases in the food production and in the fourth phase the food production was augmented as to become greater than the needs. Nevertheless, due to wars and political events, social inequality, privatising of natural resources and distribution problems hunger has not ceased.

Members of Slovenian Third Age University participated in the ULM conference. Members of the journalism study group prepared for this occasion the publication *Bread in the past and present* which is available on the web in Slovenian and English language. It is a collection of interviews and the interviewees come from different social and professional backgrounds and are of different age. Members of the painting groups from the same university prepared a catalogue of their paintings on the same topic.

The longer version of this article was published also in *Nedeljski dnevnik*, a national Slovenian newspaper.

## **MESSAGES FROM DANUBE COUNTRIES**

### **A MESSAGE FROM GERMANY**

#### **BAGSO AND DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY**

BAGSO (German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations) has organized the 11th German Senior Citizens' Day 2015 in Frankfurt. The 12th Senior Citizens' Day will take place in 2018.

You will find a short documentation in English- giving an overview about older peoples' organizations and recent initiatives in Germany as well as BAGSO's engagement in European and International Contexts.

One of the topics of the next BAGSO Assembly and Conference in November 2016 is focusing on the federal government's 7th report on aging.

The report is going to be published in 2016 and will include concrete



recommendations for action on sustainable policies for older people in local communities.

BAGSO- EN: <http://www.bagso.de/bagso-german-national-association-of-senior-citizens-organisations.html>

German Senior Citizens' Day 2015: EN brochure 2015: [http://www.deutscher-seniorentag.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/redaktion/PDFs\\_und\\_Docs/Dokumentationen\\_Erklaerungen/WEB\\_BILDDOKU\\_DST\\_englische\\_fassung\\_Photographic\\_Record.pdf](http://www.deutscher-seniorentag.de/fileadmin/user_upload/redaktion/PDFs_und_Docs/Dokumentationen_Erklaerungen/WEB_BILDDOKU_DST_englische_fassung_Photographic_Record.pdf)

The Seventh Government Report on Older People: <https://www.dza.de/en/policy-consulting/geschaeftsstelle-altenbericht/seventh-report-on-older-people.html>

Source: Elke Tilpeman, BAGSO

## **A MESSAGE FROM ROMANIA**

### **THIRD AGE UNIVERSITY OF GALATI - A PIONEER PROJECT IN ROMANIA**

On the 28th June 2016, the Senate of the University "Lower Danube" from Galati/Universitatea Dunarea de Jos din Galati, a port town on the Danube in the Eastern Romania, agreed to the founding of the first third age university in the country. Thus U3A courses will officially begin on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, the date when U3A Galati is to be admitted as a member to AIUTA (International Association of Universities of the Third Age). "The Third Age University has been established in the frame of the University of "Lower Danube" in Galati. Modeled after the French third age universities and adapted to the local cultural and academic circumstances it is a pioneer project in Romania, putting older people in the center of their actions. Moreover, Galati, U3A will function as a laboratory producing societal and educational changes. Lifelong learning, social inclusion,

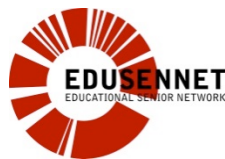


intergenerational dialogue, valuing human potential are just some of the concepts and values!" said Prof. Dr. Violeta Puscasu, the President of the new Galati U3A

Source: Ana Žlibut

## A MESSAGE FROM SLOVAKIA

### EDUSENNET PROJECT- HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW IT?



Comenius University and its University of the Third Age coordinate the Erasmus + project Educational Senior Network (EduSenNet) uniting the efforts of seven EU partners from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Sweden, Spain and the Netherlands. Other partners from Poland and Austria focus on the learning of older people and possibilities for inclusion of other people from rural communities.

Objectives, needs and outcomes are catered for in various ways by summarising experiences; encouraging older people to take part in learning activities; developing interest in learning through participation in activities designed to promote and extend knowledge and skills.

The project examines the objectives, motivation and barriers to learning of the older persons who take part in the programmes as well as those who do not. The introduction of new programmes and the upgrading of old ones will involve older people in activities more suited to their needs.

EduSenNet project has been designed to gather and share information, make wider and better use of all these rich experiences, building upon them, analysing and

assessing the value and impact on older persons, disseminating research evidence, and creating a network to do all this.



<http://edusennet.efos-europa.eu/>

The second project meeting took place in Alicante in October 2015



The third project meeting took place in Uppsala in April 2016



Source: Nadežda Hrapková



### MESSAGES FROM SLOVENIA

REFUGEESIN, THE TITLE OF A NEW EUROPEAN ERASMUS+ PROJECT WAS TRANSLATED INTO SLOVENE THE TIMES OF REFUGEES

The new ERASMUS+ project, co-funded by European Union, is a continuation of the finished project CINAGE European film for active ageing which inspired the current partners of RefugeesIn. There is a clear analogy between the two projects and topics. Like older people, refugees are often approached on the basis of stereotypes since stereotypes are handy. Using them, we do not need to develop our own standpoints. It is enough to hear and repeat what our cultural or social group says. These stereotypes may be negative or positive, sort of primitive idealization. Neither of them are welcome. It is high time stereotypes about

refugees were alleviated as not to stay in the “conceptual tunnel” ( cf. Boris Cyrulnik) leading to fears and using inappropriate defense mechanisms, opening room for endangering populism.

Between Europe and the world of Islam - from where refugees currently come- there has been a long history of invading territories, conquering them, defeating, reconquering, diplomacy, alliances, trading, translating, transferring technology, but also imitating arts and culture. The figures of certain Islamic heroes, '( cf. A Turk in Italy) have been exciting the imagination of Europeans and preventing them from understanding the true nature of the Islamic world, which helped Europe to consolidate its own identity. The project has clear aims: to improve the understanding of different cultural realities, to better integration of our different cultures and to learn about producing documentary films: shooting, directing, editing documentary films..... on inclusion of refugees and our own inclusion. There will be many possibilities in this project to reach out to wide audiences and public spaces.

Source: Dušana Findeisen

#### **IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED: SLOVENIAN THIRD AGE UNIVERSITY IS A HISTORIC BREAK THROUGH IN CONCEPTUAL AND POLITICAL DEALING WITH OLD AGE IN SLOVENIA LJUBLJANA, NOVEMBER 8TH-9TH 2016**

Institute of Contemporary History is preparing a national conference and a scientific publication on old age and older people. Slovenian Third Age University will be contributing an article titled *Slovenian Third Age University - Its Way Towards Socially Perceived And Recognised Old Age*. Other national institutions will be participating: Anton Trstenjak's Institute, The national network of pensioner associations etc.

Source: Robert Mlakar

#### **A MESSAGE FROM SERBIA**

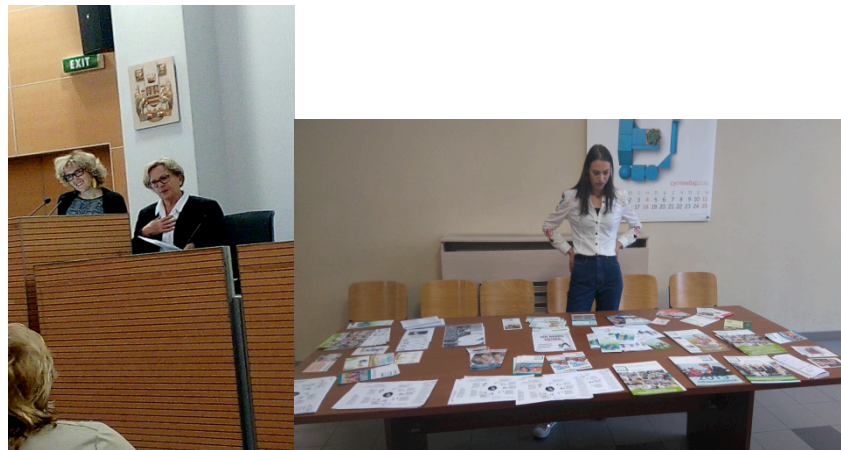
## IN BELGRADE, THE PRESENTATION OF THE „COMMUNITY OF GOOD NEIGHBOURS” WAS FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION ON HOW TO AGE WITH DIGNITY

The municipality Old Town (Serb. Gradska opština stari grad) has been practicing regular face to face consulting with the townspeople regarding their common issues. Different professionals, social workers specialised in working with older people and older people themselves have recognised this municipality as a positive model of a socially responsible municipality. Following the initiative given by *Dr-Laza Lazarević National Foundation for Human Aging* the municipality decided to support the project titled „Creating a community of good neighbours”. Neighbours used to be extremely important and valued in Serbia, thus the project is culturally embedded and will, no doubt, be successful.

The project has united the efforts of five experts in adult education sciences and those of a German expert *Elvira Barbara Savade*, President of the Association *Senior Experten Service*. To begin with the project was focused on 40 buildings and totalled 400 direct participants. The *Community of good neighbours* currently encompasses thirty cultural, educational, scientific, health and social institutions as well as some socially responsible companies. Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts will be supporting the project in its own way as well.

The model of the “Community of good neighbours” was presented in the Festivity Hall of the Old Town Municipality. *Elvira Barbara Savade* introduced the audience to the German model of human and dignified ageing as well as the BAGSO’s activities while *Simeon Babić*, the director of the *Dr. Laza Lazarević Foundation for Human Aging* contributed an overview of the cooperation with German organisations and possibilities of applying the model of “Community of good neighbours” to the Old Town Municipality. Present were also presidents of the building councils who expressed their readiness to be active members of the project. The first phase of the project is to last for six months.

Source: Lidija Jevremović,  
nacionalnifond@open.telekom.rs



## **INSPIRATIONAL PRACTICES/ TOPICS**

### **PRE-RETIREMENT COURSES, WHAT FOR?**

Pre-retirement education is meant for older workers to remain longer in employment or to adapt to retirement, one of the greatest transitions in the life course: the change, transiting over from the end of the professional phase to post retirement phase of life.

At the recent AHA conferences on healthy and active ageing pre-retirement education was one of important topics. It became clear that mere raising the mandatory retirement age without adopting accompanying supporting measures might well squeeze older people out of the labour market, impoverish them, make

them live on social allowance or push them into a long term illness leave. But it might also change the nature of pre-retirement education.

Pre-retirement education is mostly education for facing an important change in one's life, whereas in the above described situation, it might change from *education of older workers for facing a change*, to education of the long term unemployed older workers or *overcoming a long, too long transition which in its own right would become a phase of life*.

Pre-retirement education has to be ambitious, based on theories and evaluated! It has to be interactive (expert's lectures are not welcome) since the participants have to get empowered, have to express their hopes and their concerns. It should be a combination of cognitive (head) and emotional learning (heart) and it should also be learning by doing (hands). Topics that can be chosen are endless and their choice depends on the participants!

Source: Alijana Šantelj

## HOW TO BE A GUEST/HOST WITH THE HELP OF FREE BIRD CLUB

Dublin based *Freebird Club* members are encouraged to connect with one another through traveling from one home to another. By being a guest, you can experience a new place through a local's eyes, staying in a comfortable environment. Each guest and host becomes acquainted through finding accommodation on The Freebird Club website, ensuring members' experiences are tailored to their needs. Guests and hosts can share stories, experiences, and even meals. The Freebird Club stipulates that guests receive breakfast each morning for the duration their stay. This is included in the nightly rate, which is paid when your booking is confirmed. This alleviates any possible worry about having to pay during your trip. If anything goes wrong, The Freebird Club will of course be here to help. This club has been nominated as a one of the 15 finalists presenting themselves on the 20th October 2016 at the Soical Innovation Tournament in Ljubljana.

<https://www.thefreebirdclub.com/be-a-guest/>



## BACKGROUND PAPER

### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF EDUCATION FOR FORMALLY ORGANISED VOLUNTEERING

discusses older people's volunteering in culture based on their goal oriented learning within organised education and customized educational programmes. The article is about volunteering meant to create new volunteering roles for older people within public cultural institutions and in close co-operation with educational institutions. The authors of the paper and the owners of authors' rights are Rajka Bračun Sova, Nives Ličen, Dušana Findeisen, Urša Kramberger.

<http://www.utzo.si/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Personal-Expierience-of-Education-for-Formaly-Organised-Older-Volunteering.pdf>

## IMPORTANT LINKS

Thomas Scharf, Chris Phillipson, Paul Kingston & Allison e. Smith  
Social Exclusion and Older People: exploring the connections. In: *Education and Ageing*, Volume 16, Number 3, 2001 303

The article explores the connections between social exclusion and ageing. and reaches beyond the assumption that paid work is a major factor of social integration. Social inclusion is made possible through relationships and resources beyond paid employment.

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Paul\\_Kingston/publication/228808448\\_Social\\_Exclusion\\_and\\_Older\\_People\\_exploring\\_the\\_connections/links/542fcf400cf27e39fa997997.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Paul_Kingston/publication/228808448_Social_Exclusion_and_Older_People_exploring_the_connections/links/542fcf400cf27e39fa997997.pdf)

**Impressum DANET Newsletter**

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30th October 2016