

The basic aim of UISEL is to leverage processes of independency and individual empowerment of Senior Citizens through the use of mobile devices that allow an almost ubiquitous access to the information and communication.



Senior Citizens' Use Of Mobile Devices

How do today's senior citizens use mobile devices? What difficulties arise and which approaches do trainers have to face these challenges? To learn from the experiences of adult education trainers with seniors and ICT in different cultural and social contexts, 36 interviews in the seven European partner countries of the UISEL project have been conducted. In combination with geragogical principles of learning in later life, results of these interviews are the basis for the project's pedagogical approach.

Generally, trainers acknowledge the increasing importance of digitalized information for all age groups. Witnessing the digitalization of contents, from newspapers to bank accounts, ICT skills become a basic requirement for social inclusion. Despite the fact that the majority of adults over 55 years do not have much experience with mobile devices, their use is expected to increase in the future. Although isolation and social exclusion cannot be resolved through the

use of mobile devices, it can be alleviated. ICT offers socializing opportunities through social networks and discussion forums.

Seniors in the European countries are willing to learn, but they need support. Not all seniors have equal access to ICT and attitudes and abilities for learning new skills are distributed unequally among different social groups and generations. Thus, attendance in class and face-to-face interaction remain indispensable features of the learning process. Furthermore, learning in diverse peer-to-peer as well as inter-generational groups is important. Participating in ICT learning sessions with a trainer is a good start, but it is equally important to facilitate individual training and autonomous learning in the trainee's social surrounding. Knowledge about ICT is learnt in one context, but often not linked to everyday needs, interests and resources. Therefore analysing the experiences, preferences and resources in everyday surroundings is essential for teaching ICT skills.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The second project meeting took place in Vienna, Austria, on the 30th of June and 1st of July 2014, organized by Department of Sociology, University of Vienna. Before the meeting, the project focused on the specification of the projects pedagogical approach, while since the meeting, partners attend to the development of contents for different modules.

Pedagogical contents will be available in the beginning of 2015 in combination with a "train-the-trainer"-program for UISEL partners. The next project meeting will take place in Slovakia, on the 2nd and 3rd of February, organized by our Slovak partner Forum Pre Pomoc Starsim.

UISEL's Pedagogical Approach

To facilitate self-determined tablet learning for older adults, the UISEL project has made use of sociological studies, geragogical principles and practical knowledge of experts in the field of senior education. General conclusions from the empirical material are put into context by transferring them into a pedagogical model, which outlines the structure of the UISEL training course. This model must consider differences in the access to and participation in learning and ICT use, characteristics of learning processes of older learners and practical experiences acquired in different cultural and organizational contexts. Two major conclusions could be drawn:

1. Firstly, the UISEL model proposes a combination of class learning and e-learning. In class learning, initial constraints towards new technologies shall be relieved and social learning communities shall be fostered. E-learning serves for repetition and practice in each individual's own pace and by their own preferences. Promoting "learning-to-learn"-processes, trainers are not so much teachers as facilitators, moderators, motivators and confidence-builders on an equal footing.
2. Secondly, UISEL operates along a basic structure of contents and modules. This framework aims to be concrete enough to offer a structure to both trainers and older learners, but should also be flexible enough to leave enough participative space for co-creation of the learning process. The basic framework comprises one basic module and several thematic modules – e-interaction, e-information, e-entertainment, e-health, and e-banking - which can be selected either by the trainer or based on the participants' interests and needs. Each module comprises 16 hours of teaching and learning: eight hours will take place in class and eight hours by autonomous self-learning and/or e-learning.



LLP and Erasmus+

The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) was designed to enable people, at any stage of their life, to take part in stimulating learning experiences, as well as developing education and training across Europe. LLP programme ran from 2007-2013.

The activities of LLP continue under the new Erasmus+ programme from 2014-2020. The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training, and Youth work. Erasmus+ brings together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training, and Youth; it will for the first time provide support for Sport.

Erasmus+ will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among Education, Training, and Youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and bridge the worlds of Education and work in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe. It will also support national efforts to modernise Education, Training, and Youth systems. In the field of Sport, there will be support for grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

Project Partners



Virtual Campus, Lda
Av. Fernão Magalhães,
n° 716, 1°
4350-151 Porto
PORTUGAL



Forum Pre Pomoc Starsim
Zahradnicka
971 01 Prievidza
SLOVAKIA



University of Vienna,
Department of Sociology
Rooseveltplatz
1090 Vienna
AUSTRIA



Romanian Institute for Adult Education
Calea Bogdanestiilor, no.32 A,
Rooms 205/206
300389 Timisoara - Timis county
ROMANIA



Anziani e non solo società cooperativa
Via Lenin
41012 Carpi - Modena
ITALY



Aula Permanente de Formación Abierta,
Universidad de Granada
Calle d e la Paz
18002 Granada
SPAIN



ŽIVOT 90
Karlofny Světlé 286/18
110 00 Praha 1 - Staré Město
CZECH REPUBLIC

FEATURED PARTNERS

Aula Permanente de Formación Abierta is an initiative of the University of Granada launched in the academic year 1994-1995, in order to meet the educational needs of people over 50 years who are admitted to the University without any requirement other than to have reached that age.

This university program for elderly aims to contribute to improving the situation and personal and social skills of their students, with a dual purpose, training and supportive social care. To perform this task, University of Granada has the support of the Ministry for Equality and Social Welfare of the Junta de Andalucía, through DG Elderly. In the Provincial Headquarters (Baza, Motril and Guadix) also collaborate respective municipalities and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla the Ministries of Culture of their respective autonomous administrations.

The Aula Permanente proposed comprehensive educational activities, in two ways: address the student not only as a person but as a member of a larger community than it needs for its own development, which must be complete; promoting all the typical tasks of any university: teaching, research and service to society. Aula Permanente achieved in December 2007, within the Plan 2005-2008 Vicerrectorado Quality Planning, Quality and Evaluation, at the headquarters of Granada, the certificate of quality according to International Standard ISO 9001: 2000.

APFA actively involved in research projects at national and European level. One such project, funded by the Age Concern Government of Spain, was primarily aimed at learning the new technologies by older students and study the impact that this implies in their quality of life.

Aula Permanente achieved in December 2007, within the Plan 2005-2008 of the Vicerrectorado for Quality Assurance, at the headquarters of Granada, the certificate of quality according to International Standard ISO 9001: 2000.

<http://aulaperm.ugr.es>

Anziani e non solo società cooperativa is an NGO working in the field of social innovation since 2004, with a specific focus on project management and development of products and services in the field of social work and social inclusion.

The consortium makes available its expertise in services and social research, the traditional training and distance learning for social workers, in the development of websites and multimedia publishing in the social sector, in consulting for technology transfer to vulnerable people and social development.

The activities of Anziani e Non Solo concern mainly: Active aging to frail and dependent elderly support and training and supporting family carers. ANS provides many services that target specific informal carers, including: mutual support groups, a web portal (www.caregiverfamiliare.it), training, personal support in finding home care, social research on carers support for re-employment, validation of competences acquired informally.

The cooperative is a member of international networks such INPEA (international network for the prevention of elder abuse), Eurocarers (European network of organizations of caregivers) and Age Platform (European network of organizations working with the elderly). ANS is a member of the Executive Committee of Eurocarers (European Network of Organizations carers). ANS has developed the first Italian course e-learning for informal carers used before hundreds of carers from all over Italy. Anziani e non solo società cooperativa also has extensive experience in the ECVET methodology and its application in the field of care.

<http://www.anzianienonsolo.it/>

Past Events

Conference ForAge 2014: New Directions and New Learning in Later-Life: Taking the Learning to the Learner; Active and Healthy Ageing; Learning Communities

Virtual Campus, Lda, has participated in the Conference ForAge 2014 that took place in Porto, Portugal, on 7-8 November, 2014. This conference identified, analyzed and debated new thinking and new possibilities for later life learning in Europe.

There were discussions on various topics, such as: Recent research evidence on the experience and outcomes of later life learning initiatives; The work and achievements of the ForAge network including its Vision for the Future; An overview of relevant work, achievements and policy in Portugal; Current developments in active and healthy ageing cities and other communities; Healthy ageing in global and-pan European policies etc.

<http://aidlearn.wix.com/forageconference14>

The 23rd Annual Volonteurope Conference

The 23rd Annual Volonteurope Conference: 'Enlargement, Migration and Social Cohesion in the EU' was held in Valletta, Malta, on 12-14 November 2014 and was organized by Volonteurope and Malta Health Network. The Conference approached issues related to EU's enlargement process over the last ten years, as well as mobility and migration in Europe, and their impact on social cohesion.

<http://www.volonteurope.eu/event/23rd-annual-volonteurope-conference-valletta-malta/>

Upcoming Events

IV International Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics: "Active, healthy and positive aging"

In early December, in 5th, 6th and 7th, will take place in Lisbon, The IV International Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics: "Active, healthy and positive aging" devoted to the theme - "Active, healthy and positive aging", within the event "Portugal Maior 2014". This event will be organized by Escola Superior de Educação João de Deus in partnership with AIP – Feiras, Congressos e Eventos. The main purpose of these Conferences is to bring together a group of experts to discuss active, healthy and positive aging at a European and International level.

http://www.joaodedeus.pt/gerontologia/congresso_en.asp?p=apresentacao

Adult Learners' Festival and Adult Learning Star Awards

The 9th Adult Learners' Festival will take place from the 23rd - 28th February 2015 in Dublin, Ireland; and will be organized by Irish National Adult Learning Organisation (AONTAS). The Adult Learners' Festival is all about celebrating adult learning and the achievements of adult learners; showcasing the work of adult education providers; promoting the work of AONTAS and the adult education sector and ensuring that adult education is placed firmly on the political agenda.

<http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com/>

EPALE - Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe

Over the last years, the European Union has been working toward the creation of an Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe – EPALE, a multilingual open membership community that, according to its creators, is "designed to be of interest to teachers, trainers, researchers, academics, policy makers and anyone else with a professional role in adult learning across Europe."

As EPALE is multilingual, it means that this site really is pan European and can be accessed by all. EPALE offers a range of unique features, making it the primary site for all adult learning topics in Europe, gathered together in one place.

The platform will focus around 5 key themes important to the adult learning sector: Learner Support; Learning Environments; Life Skills; Quality; Policies, Strategies and Financing and will have exciting features such as a pan European calendar of events and a partner search facility.

The official launch of EPALE is scheduled for the Spring 2015; however, the platform is already available for testing; you can learn more about what happens in adult education reading news, blogs and pages with articles available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish at <http://ec.europa.eu/epale>, very soon providing content in all 24 EU languages.