

Thursday 11th July 2024

Intergenerational participatory workshop: “Shaping the Future Together – How to Use the Human Potential in the Civil Society”

Subgroup 3: Competences of older adults

Moderation and Minutes by Tsveta Shenkova

Questions:

- How is the situation in your countries?
- How can their potential be 1. seen and 2. better used?
- How can intergenerational exchange be fostered and used to help use their potential?
- What projects do you have in your country to include older adults actively in everyday life to shape the future?

Minute:

The discussion in this groups started by discussing the **cultural differences** in the attitudes to adults in the countries of the participating members, e.g, Germany, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria.

It was mentioned that “seniors” are **expected to stay at home** and enjoy their retirement and if necessary, help their children take care of the kids that is their grandchildren.

However, attitudes are slowly changing, and “seniors” are **becoming more and more active** in areas outside their families and immediate contacts. This is done in a number of ways.

First, some seniors who have jobs that can be practiced even after retirement stay active and **continue working**. Many doctors, lawyers, accountants and university teachers practice their jobs.

In this way, they stay **independent** and do not rely solely on their pensions. More importantly, though, in this way they act as mentors and facilitators to young people **and transfer their knowledge** and skills to the “Young”.

An increasing number of “seniors” get involved in various **lifelong learning programmes**. This helps them create new contacts, enrich their knowledge, break the “I have done my fair share of learning and acquiring new skills” pattern. The immense positive outcomes of these activities are especially visible when it comes to computer skills.

The “seniors” become **computer literate**, they get experience in working with computers and the social medias. In this way they **can get in touch** with many other people, take part in various online projects and overcome not only the physical barriers of isolation but also the attitudes of the “Younger” generations and the society in general.

Resume

Finally, we agreed that we have to **continue to remove barriers**, to participate actively in various projects, and to better promote the intergenerational cooperation.

In addition, lifelong learning has to be **supported on national and global level** in order to make a valuable contribution to shaping an inclusive and sustainable future for the “seniors”.