The Scenario: the Elderly in Europe

Europe is witnessing an important ageing of its population. The expectation of a longer life has brought about a deep change in the lifestyles and needs of seniors. By 1995, 70 million people over the age of 60 were living in the Union, almost 20% of the population. By 2020, this figure will rise to 25% and people of 80 years and older will more than double. This demographic evolution raises many challenges that ICT can help address, creating many benefits to older individuals, while also making the economy grow in more productive ways.

The Knowledge Volunteers Project: aims and objectives

The project aims to (a) promote digital competence among older people at risk of exclusion through intergenerational exchange and relations with young people; (b) encourage the active participation of older people in society through voluntary activities, thus enhancing self-esteem, identity and social relations; (c) improve the production, testing, and dissemination of innovative curricula, methodologies and modules for adult learners; (d) create a network of “Knowledge Volunteers” of all ages; (e) contribute to the creation of a more volunteer-friendly environment, with more people participating in volunteering activities throughout Europe, while facilitating international mobility among older volunteers; (f) develop alternative learning approaches based on a Phyrtual Environment (integration of virtual and physical activities), leading to the creation of a dynamic repository of interacting good practices in the field of formal, non-formal and informal adult learning education.

Partners: who we are?

- Fondazione Mondo Digitale, Italy
- Societatea Romana Pentru Educatie Permanenta, Romania
- University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- ICVolunteers, Switzerland
- Fundaciòn Para el Desarollo Infotecnologico de Empresas, Spain
- 50plus Hellas, Greece
- Manisa MEM, Turkey

Direct/Indirect Beneficiaries

Schools and Elderly Centres: young volunteers, teachers, elderly volunteers; local citizens at large.

Methodology and Tools

- Enrich, translate, customize and implement the didactical kit composed of 4 modules: ABC of ICT, Social networking, E-government services and Techno Services - Domestic Technology.
- Carry out pilot courses for elders in order to test, improve and validate the implemented methodology.
- Carry out in-depth case studies of the innovative methodological/didactical aspects of the project, in order to strengthen the educational foundations of the programme.

SOLIDARITY WORKS!

VOLUNTEERING MAKES EVERYDAY LIFE GREAT!