



# **ForAge for later-life learning – building on European experience**

**A Grundtvig Multi-lateral ‘network of networks’, 2012-2014  
518459-LLP-1-2011-1-UK-Grundtvig-GNW**

## **What is the rationale of the ForAge Project?**

Since the first European Year of Older People and Intergenerational Solidarity in 1993 there have been many pan European exchanges, projects, training events, seminars, programmes and networks concerned with learning in later life. The numbers increased significantly with the beginning of the EU Grundtvig programme in 2000. This gave impetus and funding for imaginative and innovative work across Europe. However, best use has not been made of this work in terms of building upon it, sharing of information, creation of networks and analysis and assessment of its value and impact in terms of policy, research and practice.

There is a rich tapestry of learning in later life opportunities across Europe, supported by a range of agencies, government departments, NGOs and older people themselves. But there is as yet no effective and ongoing communication process to share and learn from what has been developed. Networks, which tend to be thematic, have emerged but they do not always communicate outside their spheres of interest and are not always sustained.

The Forage network plans to contribute to international research, policy and practice through the creation and exploitation of an accessible database of past projects, relevant policy and research, statistical evidence and examples of best practice which relate to learning in later life across Europe.

## **What ForAge hopes to do**

The ForAge Project is funded from January 2012 to December 2014 and aims to:

- Create an interactive portal for each EU country to feed data about later-life learning – practice, policy, research, success and failure into an ongoing, sustainable, interactive and accessible database for wider use.

- Promote the use of data for research, analysis, sectoral searching, project building and partner searching.
- Document, evaluate and analyse projects at a European level and promote new ways to utilise results
- Promote collaboration and participation across disciplines.
- Create links and methods of cross-communication with other relevant EU networks, projects, programmes and potential partners.
- Give access to any databases of (good) practice in a range of learning areas around later life learning; education and ageing and training of educators in these fields.
- Offer an online forum for 'live' participation in debates/discussions around particular topics.
- Enhance the usage and value of data held on EVE, ADAM and EST databases.
- Encourage debate through our three pan European seminars and 'virtual' conferences, discussion groups, forums and consultations. These will be reported in our nine newsletter and three annual progress reports.
- Produce reports to disseminate to key stakeholders about our work and findings.

## **What is AEA's role in ForAge?**

AEA is one of the 17 partners in ForAge and one of the two British partners. AEA will play a role in all of the work-packages which make up the ForAge Project but has key roles as host of the ForAge website and as a major player in the development of the interactive database. The sustainability of the outcomes of the ForAge project beyond 2014 is crucial and AEA will want, with other partners, to ensure this.

## **Who are the other ForAge Partners?**

- University of Leicester - Leicester UK (lead partner)
- Bia-net - Graz, Austria
- Cyprus Adult Education Service - Nicosia, Cyprus
- Finnish Adult Education Association - Helsinki, Finland
- 50plus Hellas - Athens, Greece
- Trebag Property & Management Ltd Budapest - Hungary
- Lunaria - Rome, Italy
- The Elephant Learning in Diversity Nijmegen - Netherlands
- PRO-MED - Gdansk, Poland
- Aid-Learn - Lisbon, Portugal
- IMB Domicilium - Brno, Czech Republic
- Asociata EUROED - Bucharest, Romania
- MERIG (internal evaluation) - Graz, Austria
- The Slovenian Third Age University Ljubljana - Slovenia

- University of Cordoba - Cordoba, Spain
- Age Action Ireland - Dublin

## **Forage Newsletter**

See link on previous page

## **Further Information**

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*The ForAge project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the authors and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*