



## Project coordinator

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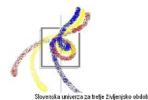
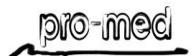
**Association for Education and Ageing**  
 United Kingdom  
[www.associationforeducationandageing.org](http://www.associationforeducationandageing.org)



**Comenius University in Bratislava**  
 Centre for Continuing Education, Slovakia  
[www.cdruk.sk/utv](http://www.cdruk.sk/utv)



## Project partners



### MERIG

Graz, Austria  
[www.merig.org](http://www.merig.org)

**The Slovenian Third Age University**  
 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
[www.univerza3.si](http://www.univerza3.si)

### Cordoba University

Cordoba, Spain  
[www.uco.es/intergeneracional](http://www.uco.es/intergeneracional)

### Age Action Ireland

Dublin, Ireland  
[www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie)

## Associate partners

**AGE Platform Europe**  
 Brussels, Belgium  
[www.age-platform.eu](http://www.age-platform.eu)

**BAGSO**  
 Bonn, Germany  
[www.bagso.de](http://www.bagso.de)

**Cyprus Adult Education Association**  
 Nicosia, Cyprus  
[www.cyaea.org.cy](http://www.cyaea.org.cy)

**Workers Educational Association NI**  
 Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK  
[www.wea-ni.com](http://www.wea-ni.com)



# Forage for later-life learning: building on European experience

Lifelong Learning Programme  
 Grundtvig Multilateral Network  
 518459-LLP-1-2011-1-UK-Grundtvig-GNW



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

New leaflet—April 2015

[www.foragenetwork.eu](http://www.foragenetwork.eu)

## ForAge project

ForAge was set up as a European multilateral network in January 2012 with the central aim of communicating and promoting the experiences of lifelong learning for older people. ForAge was designed to draw upon the rich experience and knowledge from European projects, sharing and disseminating information, and creating a new network to help do this.

## Background

Later-life learning can bring many different benefits for individuals, families, communities and our wider societies. Adult education can assist in raising well-being in later life. The Forage project aims to promote the most effective ways of realising the benefits of learning for older people.

## Aims

The central aim of ForAge is to be a single access point for information about later-life learning in Europe, connecting different activities and projects. It seeks to extend recognition of the value of learning for older people in European societies.

The ForAge network aims to increase access to innovative and progressive ideas and practice in Europe and to promote later-life learning for wider numbers of people.

[www.foragenetwork.eu](http://www.foragenetwork.eu)

## Achievements

The achievements of the ForAge network include:

- ✓ Wide-ranging activities to highlight later-life learning issues, using its website, newsletters and email communications with key agencies and government departments and with other EU partnerships
- ✓ Consultations with many different organisations
- ✓ Creation of a user-friendly database of information about learning in later life
- ✓ Production of the ForAge later-life learning Lexicon
- ✓ Three pan-European conferences to enable collaboration, to showcase EU projects and initiatives, and to promote dialogue between practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and older people

## Future plans

Working in partnership with others, the plans of the ForAge network include:

- ✓ Maintaining and extending the database
- ✓ Developing existing and new links with organisations and agencies to promote later-life learning in Europe
- ✓ Organising conferences, seminars and consultations and further newsletters and discussion documents
- ✓ Retaining the website, including the ForAge Lexicon
- ✓ Offering training opportunities within the Erasmus+ framework
- ✓ Promoting dialogue between policy makers, practitioners, researchers and older learners

## Continuing need for the ForAge network

Since the ForAge network began in 2012 the context of later-life learning has changed, in many respects for the worse. Policies for the ageing society and demographic change have been downgraded as EU countries have focused on economic problems and austerity measures.

Funding cuts and changes in policy priorities have adversely affected many agencies with expertise in later-life learning. Changes in lifelong learning funding in the EU have reduced resources for work with older learners and limited the role of smaller voluntary organisations.

Nationalism has increased and divisions have grown, for example around ethnicity and religion, and the common concerns of older people are being overlooked. The importance of later-life learning in promoting healthy and active ageing and well-being is not sufficiently appreciated.

These factors show that work of the ForAge network in promoting later-life learning continues to be needed in European countries.

## Contact details

Visit the ForAge website at [www.foragenetwork.eu](http://www.foragenetwork.eu) to find out more about the ForAge network and about the partners. Contact details are given for each partner. You can also visit the ForAge Facebook site.