

Declaration

On the importance of support for later-life learning and of the value of the ForAge network

ForAge for Later-Life Learning: Building on European Experience was an EU Grundtvig multilateral network project funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme between January 1 2012 and 31 December 2014*. Key outcomes of this project have been (i) an internet-based interactive database (<http://www.foragenetwork.eu>), which draws together available information on later-life learning in Europe, and (ii) the ForAge network of organisations, committed to the highest standards of practice in later-life learning and to taking forward the aims and aspirations which emerged from the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, 2012.

Preamble:

Active ageing is a proactive approach to enhancing the quality of life of older people. All European societies are ageing and it is important to support the greater involvement of older people in all aspects of life: social, political, economic, spiritual, cultural and communal. Major keys to achieving active ageing and solidarity between generations are education and later-life learning. Older people have the right to access and enjoy all types of later-life learning. It is also true that they have a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to contribute to their communities, groups and families and in intergenerational activities. It is vital that suitable resources and investment are made available, and good practice promoted, in the field of later-life learning to maximise opportunities for active ageing and a happy, healthy, inclusive and productive life for older people.

Declaration:

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 of these increased significantly with the development of the highly successful EU Grundtvig Programme (2000-2015) which provided impetus and funding for imaginative and innovative work across Europe.

However, it is clear that in European countries we have not yet made best use of these activities by evaluating and building on them, sharing information, analysing researching and disseminating, taking further action and ensuring their future impact. Therefore, the ForAge project was designed to promote best practice in the fields of education and learning for older people; the ForAge database was developed to broaden knowledge of policy, research, practice and experience of later-life learning; and the ForAge network has emerged to promote the importance of later-life learning, to encourage an evidence-based approach to policy and practice and to sustain key outcomes of the ForAge Project.

WE [organisation], [country],

DECLARE that:

[Tick all boxes that apply]

- It is vital that the outcomes of the ForAge Project are continued & sustained into the future.
- In particular, not only should the ForAge database continue to be available for use, but it must grow and develop. We expect to play our part by giving advice when asked and by submitting material for inclusion in the database when relevant.
- We wish to be kept informed, in the future, of developments, events, conferences, publications. & other matters associated with the ForAge Network.
- We wish to continue to be a member of the ForAge network of organisations after the end of the ForAge Project &, hopefully, to work with ForAge partners and Network members on future projects promoting later-life learning in Europe.

[Date and place]

[Signature and Stamp]

Contact details:

Organisation (full name):

Contact Person and Function:

Address:

Country:

Tel:

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