

NEWSLETTER 1

New European project will gather information and create platform to exchange knowledge and inform best practice for later-life learning.

What is ForAge?

The project is a European multi-lateral network which has the central aim of promoting and communicating the experiences of lifelong learning for older people to create higher standards of practice throughout Europe. 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 Grundtvig programme proving impetus and funding for imaginative and innovative work across all of Europe. ForAge is designed to make wider and better use of all these rich experiences, building upon them, sharing information, analysing and assessing the value and impact on education and ageing policies, disseminating research evidence, and creating networks to do all this.

The Partnership:

1. University of Leicester, Leicester, UK
2. bia-net, Graz, Austria
3. Cyprus Adult Education Association, Cyprus
4. Finnish Adult Education Association, Helsinki, Finland
5. 50plus Hellas, Athens, Greece
6. Trebag Property & Management Ltd, Budapest, Hungary
7. Lunaria, Rome, Italy
8. The Elephant Learning in Diversity BV, Nederland
9. PRO-MED sp. z o. o., Gdansk, Poland
10. AidLearn, Lisbon, Portugal
11. IMBD, Brno, Czech Republic
12. EUROED Association, Bucharest, Romania
13. Association for Education & Ageing – AEA, UK
14. Bratislava University, Bratislava, Slovakia
15. MERIG, Graz, Austria
16. The Slovenian Third Age University, Ljubljana, Slovenia
17. Cordoba University, Cordoba, Spain
18. Age Action Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Kick off Meeting in Leicester

The ForAge project is co-ordinated by the University of Leicester's Institute of Lifelong Learning, which has established an international reputation for work in the field of older people and lifelong learning, and is in partnership with the UK's Association for Education and Ageing. The Leicester team is led by Jim Soulsby as ForAge Network Facilitator.

The Lord Mayor of Leicester, Robert Wann, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, Professor Sir Robert Burgess, attended the official launch of ForAge at the University of Leicester on Wednesday 8 February 2012.



Professor John Benyon, from the Institute of Lifelong Learning at the University of Leicester, is a member of the ForAge team. Speaking at the official launch, he said: *"There is a huge demand for education from people over 50, but recent policies from many European governments and agencies appear to have downgraded later-life learning and there are now fewer courses for older people."*

"I will go to my grave saying it is good to learn for the sake of it. Education for education's sake is a good thing – it enriches the lives of individuals and communities. We hope that ForAge will help to promote learning for the benefit of older people and our wider European society."

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