



DIGITOL

Digital Inclusion for Older People

INTERNATIONAL

PROBLEM

The problem needed to be solved is that our digitalized environments rely increasingly on the Internet to inform, communicate, shop, but also access services such as banking, e-health services, governmental and administrative services, etc. Yet, despite older Europeans growingly using the Internet, their presence online remains low in comparison to other age groups. Several projects nowadays provide the opportunity to older adults to develop their digital skills; however, we strongly believe that such initiatives should expand beyond the acquisition of basic capacities in operating computers, tablets, and other smart devices into developing media literacy, critical thinking, and a proficiency to identify reliable online information.

DIGITOL is an Erasmus+ funded project carried out between January 2020 and January 2022, and aimed to combat hate speech, stigmatization, and any form of discrimination within the EU by increasing the digital skills and critical thinking of older adults exposed to fake news.

ACTION

DIGITOL promotes mutual learning, social cohesion, and active citizenship and thus contributes to defending the European common values of solidarity and diversity.

Seniors (adults older than 55 years old) responded to an open call in order to work with younger people in intercultural and intergenerational environments, to share their views with them and engage debates on issues considered most important for social cohesion. They were asked to

fully participate in the Capacity Building Program (60 hours: June – August 2021) delivered by motivated and skillful ‘young ambassadors’, followed by the design and implementation of Pilot Actions, addressing concepts such as the importance of digital skills and the relevance of active engagement and participation for enhancing social cohesion of communities and cities (September 2021 – January 2022).

The Young Ambassadors were involved, not only in facilitating the delivery of the Capacity Building Program, but also in its very development. The training modules were co-designed by the project partners and the Young Ambassadors, making the whole experience as participatory and creative as possible.

RESULT

The training program was designed for older learners between 55 to 70 years old. Older people can still play a prominent role in their society but end up excluded either because the environment around them do not take account of their needs (for digital training, for instance), or because they have themselves internalized the ageist idea that they were ‘too old’ to fit in this new world.

The Digitol project achieved an inclusive digital world for all ages, at times where intense digital communications tend to facilitate the dissemination of fake news and made it clear that intergenerational approaches are extremely important for building a just society for all.

INTERGENERATIONAL

ANTI-HATE SPEECH

DIGITAL

www.digitol.eu