

INTERGENERATIONAL

INCLUSION

LANGUAGE LEARNING

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Elderlearn:

When frail older people
become volunteers,
Denmark

PROBLEM

An intergenerational project, aimed at combatting the loneliness of the elderly, while also teaching them a new skill in language and culture.

ACTION

This combined development and research project will extend the initiative, Elderlearn, as well as generate knowledge about Elderlearn's significance for older Danes.

The Danish student visits the older volunteer for a conversation in Danish on a weekly basis. Through the conversation, Elderlearn creates meaningful relations, which allow frail older people to help others and be a resource for society through volunteering.

The purpose of Elderlearn is to combat loneliness among frail older people by connecting them with foreigners, who are in the process of learning Danish.

RESULT

Elderlearn has great importance for the social lives of older volunteers, both among the existing target group of nursing home residents and among home care recipients.

It investigates what constitutes good social relations between the older volunteers and the students, and how these relations are created.

Elderlearn uses this knowledge in the further development of the initiative.

Furthermore, the study illuminates how frail older people's experiences and competencies can be activated, benefitting themselves and the society which they remain part of.

