



SOFT SKILLS

INTERGENERATIONAL

CULTURAL HERITAGE

From one generation to the next, Greece

SOURCE: <https://apogenia.gr/en/>

PROBLEM

The elderly have many stories to tell and share, but they usually don't have anyone to tell them to, whereas young children frequently don't have the experience of storytelling from their grandfather or grandmother.

As a result, a gap is created between the generations while popular wisdom and culture are no longer carried on from one generation to the other.

"From one generation to the next" is a pilot program organised on the island of Skopelos, with the participation of a Kindergarten and an Elderly Open Care Center, during which the kindergarten children learned about oral history and how to ask questions, through a process that resembles a game.

The objective of the program is to familiarise children with the methodology of oral history, and for them to spend time with men and women of the older generation, where they can find out how this coexistence can become interesting and fun.

ACTION

Using the methodology of oral history, they recorded fairy tales, stories from the daily life and the games the elderly individuals described to them. The innovation of this program lies in the fact that nothing similar has ever been done between these age groups.

The action was implemented in the framework of the "Points of Support" program which is co-funded by the TIMA Charitable Foundation, the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, the Hellenic Hope Charity and the Bodossaki Foundation. The artwork was included in the thematic album published in June by the non-profit organisation "Plegma".

RESULT

During these meetings, the children have the opportunity, with the guidance of teachers and a historian specialised in oral history, to collect information on the following subjects:

- Fairy tales
- Games they used to play in the past
- Personal stories – experiences.

These narrations serve as inspiration for the children, who then go on to create their own works of art.

Each action is completed with a small celebration between the elderly and the children, where they have the opportunity to sing and play games together, and the senior citizens will show the children the games they played when they were young.

Children and teachers are introduced to the world of oral history and learn how to ask questions / interviews around the themes of the program: everyday life, the games they played when they were little and the fairy tales they heard from their own grandparents.