



INTERGENERATIONAL

DIGITAL

ICT workshops for older people, Spain

WEBSITE: <https://www.fundacionwhynot.org/>
SOURCES: Why Not Foundation

PROBLEM

There is a need to train people over 55 years old at socio-digital exclusion risk -particularly in rural areas, in the use of ICT tools that help them perform daily tasks in different areas; such as leisure, health, online banking, virtual communication, and public administration. Using technology safely is also needed.

This is due to the main created need of using and having everything through the smartphone. Even though there are risks to take when surfing the internet, even higher when you are not yet in control of what you are doing within the apps, there are huge advantages also older people can have, when it comes to digital administration and communication activities.

ACTION

The main electronic devices used for the training were smartphones.

The course was scheduled on a two-week-session basis, something required towards social cohesion of the groups and durable individual learning outcomes.

The course was delivered on the Foundation facilities when the socio-sanitarian context allowed it. As the activity was locally deployed and the town is not quite big, it was easy to facilitate the training to all interested participants, being able to access the place without a problem

“Public target is basically older people, however, we like to talk about intergenerational activities, minding the fact that most of the volunteer people there are under thirty years old. Nonetheless, I am a volunteer too instead of a participant; it is great to teach the peers since they also seem to connect and understand better the language and idioms I use. Of course it is also a great asset to be trained by the youth. They are dynamic in the sense of digitally fluid and full of vitality, which people above my age appreciate in terms of being treated as people with interests and needs, but not just someone to take care of, with no self-autonomy”,

says Koldo, the Fundacion Why Not volunteer.

RESULT

As an overall result, older people developed a local network that kept them in touch, both face-to-face and digitally speaking. The facilitator can give them the chance to create an online group on the platform that each group feels more comfortable with, at the end of the first sessions. That session can firstly be used to go through different models of communication tools on the smartphones, then they can vote which is the preferred one(s) on a debate, putting in common the pros and cons of the Apps they has being learning about.