The Knowledge Volunteers
Greece

INTERGENERATIONAL

B E F R I E N D I N G   F O R   S O C I A L   ✚   D I G I T A L   I N C L U S I O N

PROBLEM

"The Knowledge Volunteers" (TKV) project tackles the risk of exclusion of the growing aging population and the gap between generations, through ICT and intergenerational learning methodology.

TKV encourages the debate on the exclusion of the older generation, and at the same time raises awareness and concretely contributes to the recognition of how older adults can contribute actively to society using digital competencies.

The project was developed and coordinated by Fondazione Mondo Digitale, an Italian NGO, together with the University of Edinburgh and five organisations based in Europe and specialised in adult learning and volunteering: 50plus Hellas (Greece) Societatea Romana Pentru Educatie Permanenta (Romania), Foundaciòn Para el Desarollo Infotecnologico de Empresas (Spain), Centrum vizualizace a interaktivity vzdelávání Ostrava (Czech Republic) and International Communication Volunteers – ICVolunteers (Switzerland). The project is funded by the European Commission's Grundtvig Programme.

ACTION

The Knowledge Volunteers was designed to provide the opportunity to older adults to develop their digital skills and introduce them to the new digital reality, while promoting intergenerational dialogue and cooperation.

The "students" were older adults (over 60 years), while their "teachers" were young students, who had the task to guide them through the digital experience and help them use a computer, enabling them to share a common language and common resources with the rest of the world.

The programme brought together people of all ages and promoted mutual understanding and solidarity while encouraging older people to actively participate in society through voluntary activities, thus strengthening their self-esteem, identity, and social relationships.

During 2 years of activities implementation, from October 2011 to September 2013, TKV raised awareness and changed elders' attitude in using the PC, realising the enhancement of the digital competences of more than 1000 elders in 5 European countries Generally each course was composed of 10 to 20 lessons of 1 to 2 hours, organised in both frontal lessons and practice, based on the learning programme curricula and didactic kit developed within the project.

RESULT

Intergenerational exchange and relations with young people encouraged the elders to learn about using ICT to communicate, stay informed and be autonomous and promoted their active participation in society enhancing their self-esteem.

The older learners evaluated the overall experience positively and were glad about the opportunity to socialize and meet new friends from the younger and the older generation alike. They declared the experience gave them the feeling they can actively and fully participate in their community exactly as their younger new friends do.

DIGITAL