

“Building Bridges – How organizations working within the Youth in Action program can promote intergenerational learning” Training Course - Report from the Romanian participant



18 participants coming from France, Greece, Poland, Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Slovenia, Turkey, Wales, Sweden, Austria and Romania gathered together from 24th to 30th of June in Vienna, for an Youth in Action project that meant to facilitate an exchange of experiences and challenges among organizations who work or would like to support intergenerational learning projects, to support organizations in the development and implementation of intergenerational projects, to provide a friendly environment for an exchange of methods and experiences among organizations and to get new inputs from the NGOs that are involved in Youth in Action programme.

This was an Youth in Action Training Course organized by Grenzenlos.



During 5 working days, the participants used non-formal methods to express their experiences or their wishes about projects in the field of intergenerational work. The participants worked in groups so they would find the motivation of the organizations, of the volunteers and of

the community to get involved in intergenerational projects, also identifying the benefits and challenges that these 3 parties would have, if they get involved.

First they used the public café method to share their experiences, then they create a collage to express their idea of motivation of the 3 parties involved in a project. Another topic discussed was the challenges that might appear in a project and ways of dealing with the challenge, and this was creatively put in practice by the participants using theatre of the oppressed method.

The motivation of the volunteers working session tried to cover all groups of age that might be in the community, so the participants were divided in order to work on motivations of children, adolescents, adults and seniors.



There were also power point presentations about the definitions and the reality check of generations, done by the trainers: Barbara Eglitis and Katrin Graf. Other sessions brought information about good practice in the domain of intergenerational projects, giving 2 concrete example of projects: Zusammen Leben – Mentoring for migrants and Generationen WG from OJAB (Österreichische Jungarbeiterbewegung). The first project was a local one where immigrants and

refugees were mentored by locals, while the second project regarded young people and seniors living and having activities together, in the same building.

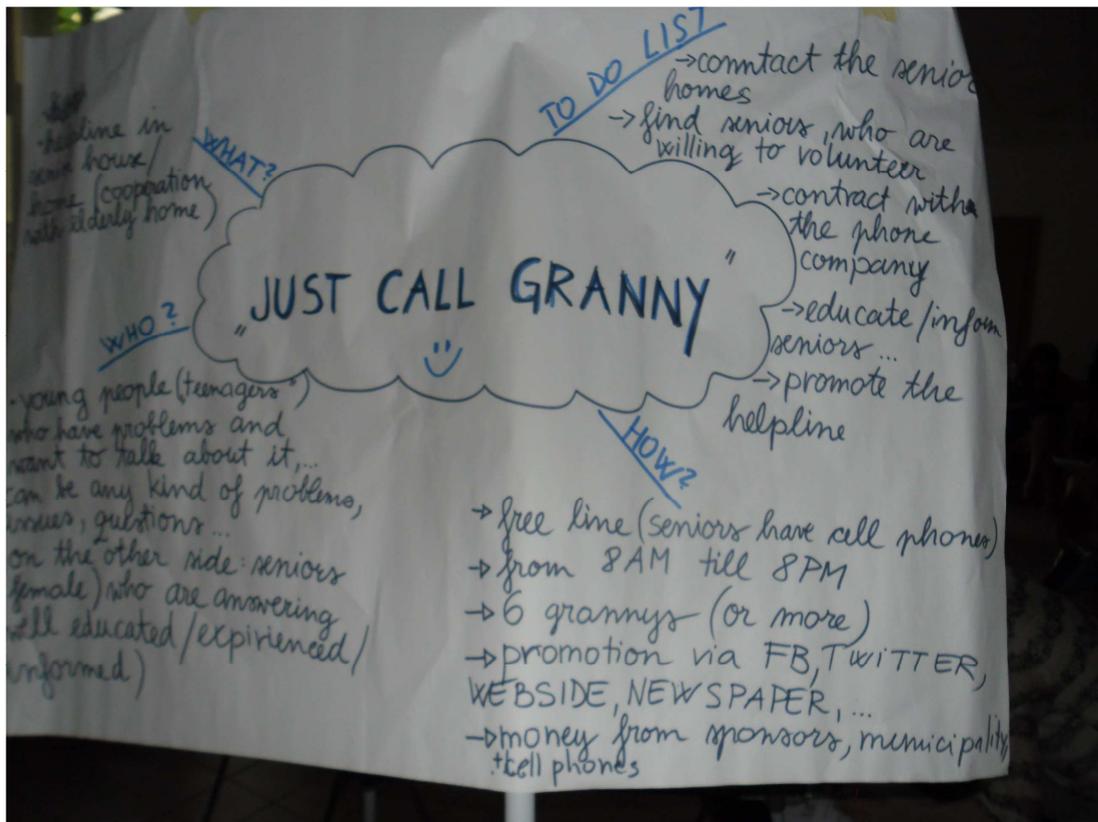
The organizers invited Isabel Wesener to talk about funding possibilities in Grundtvig Programme, including the senior volunteering issue.



The participants got the chance to get to know each other better during the intercultural evening, where they presented their country and culture. Also, socializing was encouraged during the free afternoon provided in Vienna, where they self organized in groups and visited the surroundings.



The last day and the previous afternoon were dedicated to creating partnerships for future projects between the participant organizations. Interesting ideas were developed, either at local or international level.



The training course successfully achieved its goals, from my point of view, and I can say now that I am more aware of the benefits of intergenerational projects from my personal, organization and community points of view, I am emotionally encouraged to run intergenerational projects because of the good practice examples and I look forward for the future projects that will come from this opportunity.

Elena Miu

STEPS Mental , Social and Professional Rehabilitation Center

A.L.I.A.T Romania

<http://www.aliat.eu/>