

NEWSLETTER 1

New European project will gather information and create platform to exchange knowledge and inform best practice for later-life learning.

What is Forage?

The project is a European multi-lateral network which aims at communicating the experiences of lifelong learning to create high standards of practice.

Since the first European Year of Older People and Intergenerational Solidarity in 1993 there have been many pan European exchanges, projects, training events, seminars, programmes and networks concerned with learning in later life.

The numbers increased significantly with the Grundtvig programme proving impetus and funding for imaginative and innovative work across all of Europe. However we have not made best use of all these rich experiences in terms of building upon them, sharing information, analysing and assessing value and impact against education and ageing policies and research evidence and creating networks to do all this.

The Partnership:

1. Leicester University, Leicester, UK
2. Bia-net, Graz, Austria
3. Cyprus Adult Education, Cyprus
4. Finnish Adult Education Association, Helsinki, Finland
5. 50plus Hellas, Athens, Greece
6. Trebag Property & Management Ltd, Budapest, Hungary
7. Lunaria, Rome, Italy
8. The Elephant Nijmegen, Nederland
9. PRO-MED sp. z o. o., Gdansk, Poland
10. AidLearn, Lisbon, Portugal
11. IMBD, Brno, Czech Republic
12. EUROED, Bucharest, Romania
13. Association for Education & Ageing – AEA, UK
14. Bratislava University, Bratislava, Slovakia
15. MERIG, Graz, Austria
16. U3A, Ljubljana, Slovenia
17. Cordoba University, Cordoba, Spain
18. U3A at Age Action, Dublin, Ireland

Kick off Meeting in Leicester

The project is co-ordinated by the University of Leicester's Institute of Lifelong Learning, which has established an international reputation for work in the field of older people and lifelong learning, and is in partnership with the Association for Education & Ageing. The Lord Mayor of Leicester Robert Wann and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester Professor Sir Robert Burgess attended the launch of the Forage European Project at the University of Leicester on Wednesday February 8th 2012.



Professor John Benyon, from the Institute of Lifelong Learning at the University of Leicester, is leading the Forage European project which will gather the later-life learning experiences of 17 countries.

He said:

"There is a huge demand for education from people over 50, but policies of recent governments and agencies, such as the DfES, BIS, HEFCE and the former Learning and Skills Council appear to have downgraded courses for older people. When I first came into adult education over 30 years ago, the majority of our programmes were non-accredited courses and the world was not a worse place for that.

"I will go to my grave saying there is nothing wrong with wanting to learn for the sake of it. Education for education's sake is a good thing – it enriches the lives of individuals and communities."

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