

# NEWSLETTER 4

## ***Making use of the new ForAge web portal***

The ForAge web portal has been set up to be the main means for communication and dissemination by the project. In addition, another function of the web pages is to facilitate storing and distributing project materials and communication among the partners. The main aim of the web portal is to enable interactive communication with different target groups in the field of learning in later life. To achieve this, the web pages are divided into two independent sections. The first is focused on key tasks, which arise from the operation and activities of the project. The second section is the database and this is designed to be sustainable and to continue after the project funding comes to an end.

## **What you will find at the ForAge web portal**

The ForAge web portal offers to everyone who is interested structured information about current levels of knowledge, cognition and understanding about the problems and solutions of later-life learning. ForAge is a project for everybody and for all. Everyone can find the information they require and all can have benefit from it. The ForAge web portal has been created to collect valuable and varied, and often fragmented, data and to provide a means for the public to find and use them. The web portal is also intended to raise awareness of the issues, to help convince people about the value of later-life learning and to assist in increasing the self-confidence of older people to take part in learning.

## **Target groups**

The main target groups for the project include older people and later-life learners, volunteers and organisations, teachers, managers and planners of adult education, researchers, trade unions, and civil servants, politicians and policy makers. Different target groups have their own

colour coding in the database section to make the search for appropriate information more straightforward.

## **Database**

The most significant part of the web portal is the database. This includes selected and structured data from many sources, such as policy papers, research materials, conference contributions, special publications, useful links, newsletters from other projects, and much other information. This section is expected to be functional and viable after the lifetime of the ForAge project.

## **Services**

Special care was given to the design of the communication instruments inside the ForAge web portal. One feature is the ForAge discussion forum which is intended to promote communication amongst all potential users. The forum is being managed by members of all the partner countries. Another dimension is the search engine for retrieving data within and beyond the site. The web portal is also designed to assist the management of the project. In the members' area, there are means for structuring and storing project data and documents and updates. This area facilitates the collection and distribution of project information between the different project partners.

## **National variations and flexibility**

The ForAge project is multilingual. The web portal exists in all language variations of the partners.

**The project ForAge has been funded with support from the European Commission.**

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**518459-LLP-1-2011-1-UK-Grundtvig-GNW/2011-4919**

**June 2013**