Background

Learning & education play a very important role in reducing age segregation, as it regulates imbalance between generations and opens up new opportunities for social inclusion to older adults. Despite the fact that there is a need for providing better opportunities for education of older adults & intergenerational education & learning, education of the elderly is still a peripheral activity today, which is reflected in the development of theory and practice of this area (in particular, the development of programs and skills of education providers for older adults).

The training of older adults requires andragogically well-trained providers, who are familiar with the theory and practice of adult education, know the characteristics of the life course of the members of different age cohorts and those effects on the readiness for education, understand that older adults are an extremely diverse group of adults with very different needs and require tailor-made approaches and modes of work in educational programs.

The main problem that IT educators are facing is that they don't have the needed skills and competences to educate older people in new technology. Educators of elderly, and specifically IT educators, need knowledge of older and contemporary image of old age in society. On one hand they are aware that older people are not all the same, that they are very different, that they are more different from each other than different members of the younger generations, but on the other hand they also know, they lack knowledge both in theory and practice on better working methods with this target group. Lot of teachers are more pedagogues (school system of teaching) than andragogists with merely basic knowledge on working methods for seniors.

The project is addressed to:

Primary target group of the project are adult educators, teachers, mentors, trainers, professionals in IT, who will:

- gain necessary awareness, knowledge and pedagogical tools;
- develop key competences for working with older adults
- adopt practical skills for increasing the quality and efficiency of the implementation of non-formal IT programs for seniors

Secondary target group are seniors who will be be impacted with an increased accessibility to nonformal IT learning activities, especially adapted to their needs & expectations.

Main objectives

- Better understanding of senior expectations & needs in learning environments, focusing on IT training;
- Improved knowledge & use of pedagogical tools, new technology in educating seniors;
- Exchange of good practice among partners;
- Create the basic theoretical foundations for the implementation of education of IT to older adults;
- Get to know older adults as an extremely diverse group of adult learners for whom education is being prepared according to their needs and for them.

Results

- Compendium of existing innovative and effective practices and tools in teaching technology to older people
- Job Profile of IT trainers of older people
- Training programme for IT trainers
- Video for sharing the successful experiences by teachers and older people.

Impact

- Created tools will remain within the work culture of the organizations involved and will become a new way to implement strategic actions aiming at the building of professional job profile for IT trainers of older people.
- Training methodologies and tools will be available on the website and in the community of educational providers and IT professionals. They can be used, replicated or adapted to new forms in unpredictable ways, reaching an indefinite number of people.
- The network of this project will also become a space where the organizations will be able to share its best practices, tools, methodologies and difficulties and its obtained results.

Stay with us and become a qualified IT Trainer of seniors!

Visit our homepage at www.slowlearning.eu.

Project partners are **Ljudska Univerza Ptuj** from Slovenia, **SOSU** from Denmark, p-consulting.gr from Greece, **CDEA** and **Estrategia y Organización SA** from Spain.