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Our new EMIL logo!
Thank you to one of our EMIL partners - Sandra Waszniewska, Training Factory and Gemma Woodworth, Beth Johnson Foundation for their creative input.
European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

Update on EMIL

Introduction from the project coordinator
This newsletter marks the launch of EMIL (European Map of Intergenerational Learning) – an innovative project highlighting intergenerational learning taking place or developing across Europe. Started in Oct 2009, this project will use the existing expertise of partner organisations already working in the field to create a learning network for others involved in intergenerational programmes across Europe. By supporting both regional and global networking strategies, EMIL will provide a general overview of the role and status of IL by developing a more sustainable method for collecting, exchanging, and distributing ideas and resources in the field. Representing numerous organisations and a range of partnerships from over 25 European countries, EMIL will collectively have the ability to influence the intergenerational practice debate.

Over the course of a 30 month programme, EMIL will design a European-based website and produce several editions of a newsletter to circulate relevant research and share lessons learned, such as case studies and local initiatives in the field. Furthermore, EMIL intends to create an ‘Intergenerational Learning Co-Laboratory’ that will become a knowledge base that supports further development of Intergenerational Learning policy initiatives and practice. Finally, EMIL aims to plan/host a conference in 2012 where a final report on the project and formal launch of our proposed plans for a European Intergenerational Network will coincide with the European Year of Intergenerational Solidarity between the generations.

For more information about this project, please contact Julie Melville (EMIL Project Coordinator) at EMIL@bjf.org.uk

Message from our funders:

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is an international charitable foundation with cultural, educational and social interests which aims to connect and enrich the experiences of individuals, families and communities. The Foundation is in a privileged position to support transnational work which tackles contemporary issues facing Europe, in the context of an ageing population. With a history of working for the benefit of both older and younger groups at risk, the UK Branch and the Gulbenkian Human Development Programme have identified ageing as a common priority and in 2008 began an exploratory phase commissioning papers and hosting investigative seminars focusing on three key areas; dementia, intergenerational issues and isolation amongst older people.

A word from our funders on their motivations for supporting EMIL:

“Over the past century our families and day-to-day lives have changed dramatically; more of our citizens are enjoying greater mobility and economic security enabling a previously unseen level of individual independence. These new freedoms have led to significant changes in traditional family structures and care patterns with increasing numbers of people living further and further away from their loved ones.

For these and many other reasons, Intergenerational Practice (IP) has been gaining ground at a grass-roots and policy level for a number of years as an effective preventative measure to ensure a healthy level of understanding between all ages remains. Nonetheless, the progress of IP has remained patchy, both geographically and thematically, and requires better articulation all round if the movement is to ease the issues presented to us by an ageing population.

As such the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is delighted to support EMIL in the creation of a strong network of leading partners on intergenerational work and in enabling them to share best practice. It is our hope that the active voice of the network will help to spread awareness of the benefits of working with all ages; once this message reaches stakeholders, the practical help offered by the co-laboratory and the network, through research, case studies, supporting materials and collaborative action will be second-to-none.

At such a crucial time for IP in Europe, we are confident EMIL will ensure high level policy remains closely linked to the experience of communities through national practitioners working on the ground”.

– Annabel Knight, Project Officer - UK Branch
EMIL News

EMIL KICK-OFF Meeting
I am happy to report that our recent 2 days of meetings in Berlin was a great success. These initial sessions provided 23 participants from 18 countries the opportunity to network, learn from each others experiences and share existing resources. Participants were involved in various workshops and interactive learning cafes to determine the main focus of EMIL and form a working partnership in order to create an effective European network. During this time, we were able to finalise a workplan for EMIL, draft a proposal for how partners will work together. One of the attendees stated “It was a meeting of diversity as well as a truly intergenerational meeting with participants of all ages coming from different institutions and professional backgrounds … in my opinion it was also an opportunity for exchanging different generational cultures”.

Thank you to everyone for your participation over the two days, your input and involvement was greatly appreciated. We certainly have collected a tremendous amount of information and ideas for our work in the upcoming months.

An example of EMIL partners

SCIENTER
Established as a non-profit consortium organisation in 1998; SCIENTER is a centre for Research and Innovation for Lifelong Learning. SCIENTER is now recognised as one of the leading European research centres in the field of eLearning and Lifelong Learning. SCIENTER’s study and research activity is combined with participation in pilot projects at a local, national and European level, and includes the provision of technical assistance to National Governments, the European Commission, and Regional Administrations.

SCIENTER’s primary mission is the promotion of, and participation in, initiatives and programmes to support Lifelong Learning. Using a multidisciplinary approach, SCIENTER endeavours to create understanding and stimulate, innovative processes that involve education and learning systems that are more responsive to learners’ needs.

One of SCIENTER’s highlighted projects is Banca della Memoria (Bank of Memories Project) - a non profit online initiative dedicated to collecting and publishing short video recordings of interviews with people born before 1940. Memoro – the Bank of Memories is a no profit project born in August 2007 in Torino (Italy). The first website, www.bancadellamemoria.it, was launched in 2008. Editorial staff authenticate the material uploaded by volunteers involved in the project and the content is then provided in seven languages, representing various countries throughout Europe.

For more information about SCIENTER, please visit their website at www.scienter.org
Rääma Noorte Ühing Noorus – Uudo Lane

Nooruse Maja was built in 1935 as a clubhouse by Rääma Noorte Ühing Noorus and given to the Noorus Organization to manage in January 2000. Pärnu Folk University was founded in 2004 from study circles functioning in Nooruse Maja because people there wanted to learn different languages, cultures, psychology, handicraft, and art.

Currently, almost one thousand people use the clubhouse, Nooruse Maja, for spending their free time and to educate themselves. At Noorus Maja, it is possible to participate in a variety of art activities such as painting, sewing, dancing, and singing. Club life and communication are of great importance to the ethos of Noorus Maja. The entire clubhouse is used by all generations and the majority of clubhouse activities have developed through users own initiative(s). For example, painting on china, line dance and harmonica clubs are the very first activities of their kind in Estonia.

Nooruse Maja has participated as a partner in many intergenerational projects across Europe such as: MemTra – recording different memories and traditions; TraVel AGEnts-friendly, low-cost travel and cultural exchange for older people across 10 participating country; and MATES- Mainstreaming Intergenerational Solidarity.

For more information about Rääma Noorte Ühing Noorus and the Intergenerational Learning activities they support, please visit their website at www.noorusemaja.ee
Resources

Evaluating Intergenerational Projects: A Practical Guide to Useful Resources
The Beth Johnson Foundation Centre for Intergenerational Practice (CIP) has produced a new guide, which provides practical support for people involved in intergenerational projects. The document is designed to assist those who are seeking to evidence the impact their work makes or starting to think about this process. This guide can be downloaded free of charge.

Journal of Intergenerational Relationships (JIR): programs, policy, and research.
JIR is the only international journal focusing exclusively on the intergenerational field from a practical, theoretical, and social policy perspective. JIR publishes papers and articles whose content addresses intergenerational relationships evidenced in intergenerational practice, policy and research. This journal is a unique and comprehensive resource that will help you enhance your professional development and effectiveness. JIR – For more information click go to the JIR website.

Intergenerational Programmes: Towards a society for all Ages
In keeping with the United Nations international call for building a society for all ages, this study by “la Caixa” Community Programmes looks at the characteristics such programmes should embody. It also examines the intergenerational policies that aspire to making our society a place where people are not discriminated against because they belong to one age group or another and where ageing is not considered a threat but rather a process that contributes to well-being and socio-economic development.

This guide can be downloaded free of charge.

Guide of Ideas for Planning and Implementing IG Projects; Together, yesterday, today and tomorrow
This Guide provides a coherent package of resources to be used, by researchers, local authorities and by institutions in direct contact with younger and older generations. The package of resources includes: online library of intergenerational projects; online library of intergenerational manuals and relevant documents; video; report of the research conducted in Portugal; catalogue of Literature; and database of people engaged in Intergenerational Practice. This guide can be downloaded free of charge.

EAGLE Intergenerational Learning in Europe – Policies, Programme & Practical Guidance
EAGLE brought together ten partners from eight European Member States combining expertise in the fields of intergenerational, lifelong, lifelong, later and technology enhanced learning. The report presents the final results of EAGLE, which aimed at observing, analysing, experimenting and mainstreaming intergenerational learning activities in Europe. An electronic copy of the report plus further information and a toolkit is available on the EAGLE website.

2009 Survey on Intergenerational Solidarity (Flash Eurobarometer)
This survey was conducted in order to examine EU citizens’ opinions about: existing relations between the younger and older generations; costs of an ageing population; the need for pension and social security reforms; ways in which older people contribute to society; existing possibilities for autonomous living for elderly EU citizens; the provision of elderly care and support by social services; and the role of public authorities in promoting intergenerational solidarity. The survey can downloaded at www.ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

IANUS Lifelong Learning Project
IANUS will develop ‘European Guidelines for Later Learning in Intergenerational, Intercultural and ICT-based Settings’ and answer key questions for older learners aged 50+. Through answering these questions IANUS will provide policy guidance, practical tools, analysis of success factors and good practice examples to enable improved opportunities for successful learning in later life. For information on this project go to IANUS.
A message from the Beth Johnson Foundation

The Beth Johnson Foundation (BJF) is an organisation that aims to stimulate and facilitate change which enhances the quality of life for older people and their experience of the ageing process. It seeks to achieve this through pioneering initiatives that bring together research, policy and practice. Fundamental to our approach is a commitment to partnership and collaboration at all levels. This approach is reflected in the broad range of individuals and partners the Foundation works with.

One of the main purposes of the Foundation is to gather evidence and resources on the benefits of intergenerational practice. We strive to promote evaluation of intergenerational programmes and research into the impact of intergenerational approaches by undertaking projects and partnerships that improve the understanding and practice of practitioners and policy makers across Europe. The Foundation welcomes the chance to both host and to work in partnership with EMIL to support the development of this pioneering network to develop the evidence base and understanding of intergenerational lifelong learning.

Check out our websites:-
www.bjf.org.uk
www.centreforip.org.uk

Upcoming events

4th International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP)Conference 2010
Linking Generations: Family, Work, Community - Intergenerational Solidarity for a Sustainable Society; 26th-29th April 2010 in Singapore

The conference aims to raise awareness and deepen understanding of intergenerational issues as well as create a platform for key stakeholders to learn from international best practices, so as to tighten social compact and unleash the social wealth amidst global economic downturn to build individual and community capacity and capability. To find out more please see the Conference flyer

Spanish Government Conference
April 29th and 30th, 2010
more info to follow via ebulletin

Join the campaign to mark April 29th 2010: Second European Day on Solidarity between Generations. To view the current list of initiatives and actions across Europe visit the European Older People’s Platform

Check out our websites:-
www.bjf.org.uk
www.centreforip.org.uk