

European Map of Intergenerational Learning

Newsletter – 20th edition

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The Intergenerational Outreach Choir

(IOCC), based in several locations in Oregon, mission is connecting generations through song. The choir strives to bring together intergenerational members of community through the formation of community choirs, to empower people to develop and value their own voices, to foster mutual understanding and respect among people of all ages and backgrounds, and to be a service to the public through the sharing of music and song. Click here to [learn more about the Intergenerational Outreach Choir](#).

'Mamie Régale': Pensioners cooking for employees in Toulouse, France

This initiative offers catering services to employees of local companies. It aims to combat the isolation of seniors while providing them with a complement of income. 'Mamie Régale' relies on pensioners with a passion for cooking, who prepare home-made meals for employees in local enterprises. They can cook at home or in collective kitchens, once a week or more, depending on their availability and will, and meet the employees who they cook for once a month. This initiative is led by two young women willing to offer local and quality catering services while fostering intergenerational exchange and improving older people's social inclusion and wellbeing. [To learn more about this initiative, click here.](#)

Street art knits generations in Belgium

Urban graffiti knitting²Inspired by the UK 'Yarn Bombing' movement (or the art of enhancing a public place or object with graffiti knitting - "Tricot Urbain" in French), intergenerational city knitting initiatives were organised throughout Belgium during the winter 2014-2015. Atoutages, which organizes knitting classes for all generations, took part in the initiative in Louvain-la Neuve (Belgium). The objective was to create links between generations while making cities more colourful and helping those in need, since the knit pieces have been later on re-used to make wool blankets for underprivileged in the city. [Click here to watch Atoutages' video reporting on the initiative.](#)

European Projects, Programmes & Partnerships from the field:

Take Me in Your Village! The idea of this initiative is for older people living in villages to welcome young city people into their homes, to narrow the gap between the generations and to help hand down traditions, customs and values. The idea came to light during the national essay competition *My ideas for Bulgaria, 2013* and was put into effect last summer. The pioneers in this endeavor were "foster" grandparents from the village Novakovtsi. Last year, there were 12 people aged between 15 and 29 that took part, this year the numbers have increased to over 70 participants. One younger person states: We, young people are keen to find out what life is like in villages. Many young people do not have grandparents or property in villages where they could go and spend their summer holidays, we only have the stories of our parents who tell us how wonderful life in the village is. To learn more about this project [click here](#).

IGTrain project – closing event: The closing event for Bulgaria was held on the 25th of August 2015 in Sofia. The event was organized with the help of the Bulgarian Association for Human Management. Participants included representatives of all potential multipliers of the idea of promoting training and learning at the workplace and providing additional competencies of older employees for intergenerational transfer of knowledge - employers (small, medium, and large companies), formal and informal education and training: vocational schools, vocational training centers, consulting and training organizations. Presentations from the day were:

- Valia Dankova - "[IGTrain project](#)"
- Bruno Silva – "[Pilot Trainings on the workplace on IGTrain project](#)"
- Tanya Gebova "[Overcoming differences between generations at the workplace](#)"



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CALL FOR PAPERS/New Coordinators – “From the Field” section of the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships

I am happy to announce that I have taken on a new role, alongside my colleague Christy (from Hawaii), as coordinator of the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships (JIR) “From the Field” section - an important segment of JIR comprising not only profiles, but also reflections and new ideas in intergenerational approaches and programs.

My role as co-coordinator is to actively look for new and exciting profiles throughout Europe and other submissions appropriate to the section and encourage the authors to submit as this is a great opportunity and good avenue to bridge the academic and practice divide. As such, you are invited to submit an article from one of the three types of options (all 900-1400 words) in the “From the Field” Section of JIR:

1. **Program Profiles** - Introduce programs / activities / projects already implemented which have promoted intergenerational interaction.

2. **Reflections From the Field** - Critical reflections on specific topic/s of intergenerational relationships and practice. They could be based on personal experience in intergenerational relationships or statements from people participating in intergenerational programmes or otherwise involved in intergenerational research.

3. **New Programs in the Field** - Concept papers about new program ideas or programs under development. This category will help to connect people interested in similar concepts or looking to develop new projects.

To submit your articles, find out what the criteria is for each submission, please visit the [JIR website](#) or contact us directly:

Dr. Julie Melville (Julie.Melville@bjf.org.uk).
Research Manager, University of Alberta and
European Projects Manager, BJF.

Dr. Christy Nishita (cnishita@hawaii.edu). Acting
Director at the Center on Aging at the University of
Hawaii and current President of the Hawaii Pacific
Gerontological Society.

Full of Hope as Life Passes BY ... Intergenerational Project with the Hip Hop Shakespeare Company, UK

Each year, as part of Age UK Kensington & Chelsea's Intergenerational Programme, a summer drama project for its members and local school children was run. This year Age UK K&C teamed up with the [Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company \(THSC\)](#) for a summer inter-generational drama project aimed at overcoming stereotypes the generations might hold about each other.

The group of 20 worked with the THSC team using spoken word, writing, rapping, and singing to produce an original and insightful piece of work. The material was inspired by Shakespearian themes as well as common, contemporary themes and real life experiences. The two week project culminated in a showcase for friends, family and the local community at The Electric Cinema on Portobello Road. To find out more about this project, [click here](#).



Learning Families: Intergenerational Approaches to Literacy Teaching and Learning Report now available!

In celebration of International Literacy Day, United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Institute for Lifelong Learning launched *Learning Families: Intergenerational Approaches to Literacy Teaching and Learning*. The publication highlights a number of international case studies (including a couple from the US), some of which focus on the role of grandparents/older adults in supporting literacy. To read the report, [click here](#).

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BRIDGES TOGETHER – Empower Hour

Webinars: Want to learn how you can introduce or enhance an intergenerational (IG) program in your community? Join Bridges Together for an hour-long webinar that will focus on the following topics and address all of your questions:

October 15, 2015 – Identifying Your Lead Team/Recipe for Success

November 19, 2015 – Cultural Continuity

December 17, 2015 – Ice Breakers

To learn how to register for the webinars and the upcoming schedule for 2016, [click here](#)

4th World Homeshare Congress 2015 in Melbourne, Australia November 5-6, 2015

Every two years Homeshare organises a World Homeshare Congress to bring practitioners, policy makers and researchers together to share ideas, learn from each other and establish links. These meetings are particularly helpful for new programmes – and have even inspired people to set up a programme where none existed before. You will find the congresses purposeful and friendly – all are welcome.

The theme for this Congress is **Homeshare Ticks the Boxes** as it recognises the role it can play in finding a solution to the demographic, economic and social pressures many countries face.

The Congress will be an international gathering showcasing Homeshare and exploring its potential in:

- Retirement Living
- Aged Care
- Disability Services
- Student Housing.

You can read about the [programme](#), the venue and how to make the most of your stay on the [congress website](#).

Intergenerational News & Events

Increase your knowledge around Age-friendly Cities and Communities

With the support of Grantmakers in Aging (GIA), the International Federation on Ageing hosted the final of a three-webinar series about Age-friendly Cities and Communities July 31, 2015, attracting over 150 attendees. With a dynamic presentation by Ms. Gail Kohn, Age-friendly DC Coordinator, and a substantive question and answer period, this webinar used a government lens to showcase the journey of Age-friendly DC and the current initiatives being undertaken. Ms. Kohn's presentation further relayed the need and importance of involvement and champions within the community sector, NGOs, agencies to enable success and advancement of Age-friendly programs. To listen to the webinar recording and view the presentation, [go to the IFA Bookstore](#), (no cost to members/small fee for non-members).

Inaugural Age-Friendly Universities Conference 2015 - Engaging Ageing: Dublin, Ireland November 2 & 3, 2015

Dublin City University became the first third-level institution to adopt the concept and principles of an Age-Friendly University in 2012 and has committed to lead and highlight the role that universities can play in responding to challenges and opportunities associated with the ageing demographic of the 21st century. In collaboration with international partners, Arizona State University and Strathclyde University, Dublin City University is hosting the first international age-friendly universities conference.

Proposals for papers to be presented during this conference are now being accepted. Papers should be linked with the major themes of the conference however, proposal ideas that extend beyond these thematic areas will also be considered. Proposals from academics, policy makers, non-governmental organisations and civic society are most welcomed.

To learn more about this conference, including how to submit your proposal, [click here](#).

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Recent Launch of Intergenerational Toolkit - Working across the Generations

The National Youth Council of Ireland, in collaboration with Age Action, Linking Generations Northern Ireland and Cathrina Murphy, have launched a new chapter in their online Diversity Toolkit (Access all Areas) which provides guidance on carrying out Intergenerational work. While the chapter is aimed at those working in the youth sector, the information can be applied to all sectors in helping to promote intergenerational interaction and practice in your community. The Working across the Generations toolkit is available by [clicking here](#).

ENGAGE ALL (Engaging the older old - Long Life Learning project) issue

recommendations for older people's involvement in lifelong learning and volunteering. Four organisations (Age UK, Third Age, Slovenia Philanthropy and National Foundation for the Elderly) are working together to better understand enablers for continued engagement with 'Life Long Learning' of people over 75. This exciting and knowledge-enhancing programme has been made possible by the support of the EU Life Long Learning programme. To learn more about these recommendations, [click here](#).



New Issue of Penn State's Ideas for Intergenerational Living Newsletter Now Available!

This newsletter is a great resource from our friends in the US. This latest edition provides a recap of an exciting and eventful summer in terms of new intergenerational initiatives, including pilot projects, conferences, research curricular resources, reports, and blogs, and more. [Read the full issue](#)

Resources

2015 Age-Friendly Report: Inspiring Communities

AARP International examined age-friendly cities and communities initiatives to identify projects and programs worth sharing and replicating. Through AARP International's initiative, [the 2015 Age-Friendly: Inspiring Communities report](#) was developed to present a collection of age-friendly good practices. AARP International decided to call them good practices instead of best practices because it is impossible to compare every age-friendly initiative around the world as the needs of older adults are different in different communities. To learn more about the 16 communities working toward becoming more age-friendly featured in the 2015 Age-Friendly Report: Inspiring Communities - [click here](#).



“Intergenerational Contact Zones (ICZ)” - A Framework for Investigating and Designing Spaces for Intergenerational Engagement

ICZs serve as spatial focal points for older adults and younger generations to meet, interact, build trust and friendships, and work together to address issues of local concern. They can be found in all types of community settings including libraries, schools, parks, and multi-service community centers.

The topic of ICZs took center stage at a meeting held at the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing on June 26, 2015. A multi-disciplinary group of 13 scholars and practitioners engaged in groundwork discussions and collaborative inquiry aimed at exploring existing approaches and charting new strategies for creating and/or enhancing intergenerational spaces.

To find out more about this meeting and some of the examples and principles introduced for developing creative and effective ICZs, see the [“Intergenerational Contact Zones – What and Why?” blog](#) or contact Matt Kaplan at msk15@psu.edu.