

# European Map of Intergenerational Learning

Special Edition newsletter – Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

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EMIL represented across Europe



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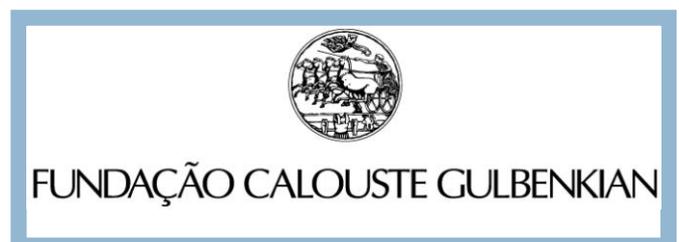
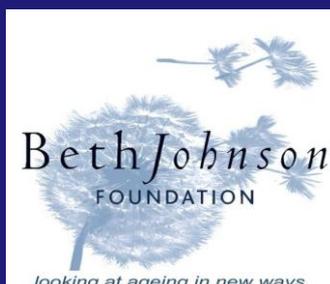
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- 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Age-Friendly Cities, Dublin.
- A Great Place to Grow Older: How Manchester is developing an Age-Friendly city.

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# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

## Update on EMIL



Over the past few months, great efforts have been concentrated on the re-launch of EMIL's website; planning and organising of EMIL's upcoming 2012 conference, and expanding our network. EMIL has also begun to produce a number of innovative resources, including: concept papers based on EMIL's thematic working groups, national profiles and position papers on current initiatives in the field. EMIL has also been represented at a number of European conferences and we will continue to promote EMIL through key upcoming international events.

Encouragingly, as result of all of our publicity and promotion of the network - a number of new members have joined the network. EMIL has become a member of the AGE platform and we are working with partners with relevant interest to establish reciprocal links.

For more information about this project, contact Julie Melville at [EMIL@bjf.org.uk](mailto:EMIL@bjf.org.uk)

## Reflections on the AGE Platform Europe

On May 12<sup>th</sup> the application of the Beth Johnson Foundation and EMIL to become full members of AGE platform was accepted. To mark this we also took space in the AGE Annual Report to promote EMIL. We will now be following up our membership to look at how EMIL can be actively engaged in the planning for 2012 and how we can support the aspirations of AGE and the European Year.

AGE has stated that its aspiration is the development of an Age Friendly European Union by 2020. This links to its objective around a Society for All Ages and in discussion at the AGM it is clear that AGE sees the engagement of all the Generations as fundamental to Age Friendly places. This is different in emphasis to the WHO Age Friendly movement which approaches this from the perspective of older people.

In the context of the discussions about Intergenerational Solidarity over the coming months, it will be essential to develop this from the perspective of reciprocal and mutually supportive relationships between the generations. In listening to the discussions at the AGE AGM, it struck me strongly that we need to start to think about the interdependencies that exist between all members of our Society. Over the coming months we need to be careful to develop a dialogue that embraces everyone, not just older people and their organisations. Ageing is one of the few things that we all share.

*Alan Hatton-Yeo, EMIL member & Chief Executive – BJJ*

To comment on Alan's statements, [go to EMIL's discussion forum.](#)



# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

## European Projects & Programmes:

### My Generation

MY GENERATION is a project that promotes the potential of the young in cities. MY GENERATION does this by fostering genuine youth involvement throughout the project and promoting boundary crossing collaboration of various actors and services, particularly education, local communities, business and public officials.

[Click here](#) for more information about the project, the 12 European cities involved, and what activities and outputs were developed.

### URBACT: Connecting cities, Building successes

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. URBACT enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. This programme, made up of 300 cities, 29 countries and 5000 participants, shares good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe.

[Click here](#) for more information about URBACT.

### Age-Friendly Cities in Spain

Both Donostia and Bilbao, in the Basque Country, were cities pioneering the implementation of this model. [Click here](#) to see a website Bilbao has devoted to this project. **Click here** to read a document, in Spanish, explaining Donostia's strategy.

A recommended document presenting the concept of age-friendly cities to a Spanish audience is "Proyecto red mundial de ciudades amigables con las personas mayores" (Sancho & Barrio, 2009).

**Click here** to read a copy of this article.

Further information and key documents are available [here](#).

### WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities

In 2006, the WHO brought together 33 cities in 22 countries for a project to help determine the key elements of the urban environment that support active and healthy ageing.

Building on the widespread interest generated by this programme, WHO has established this network which will: link participating cities to WHO cities and each other; facilitate the exchange of info and best practices; foster interventions that are sustainable and cost-effective for improving the lives of older people; and provide technical support and training.

[Click here](#) for more information about the network and its advantages of membership.

### Hoxton – Your Square Mile

This website is run by the Hoxton local community to discuss and act upon community issues that are important to local residents. They are currently working on 6 community projects to make Hoxton a better place to live, examples include: *Breathe life back into old buildings* – "we want to do things with these unused spaces that the community can enjoy" and *Old and Young* – "we want to find a way for old and young people to get to know each other better".

For more information on the website, [click here](#).

### Age Friendly Cities in Portugal

In Portugal, the association VIDA initiated a project "CIDADES" to introduce the WHO concept and conduct a national study on the friendliness of the country for people 55+. The project began July 2010 and created a national movement involving a third of the country.

[Click here](#) for more information about this association and its initiative or contact them on [vida@viver.org](mailto:vida@viver.org)

# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

## BAGSO – Bonn, Germany

BAGSO is an umbrella organisation of more than 100 German senior citizens associations and initiatives. As a solidarity-orientated action platform and interest group for the older generation BAGSO promotes the interests of around 13 million older people in Germany. Its objectives are to raise awareness of the potentials and needs of senior citizens, to encourage older people to take responsibility for themselves and others to enhance intergenerational cooperation and dialogue – primarily at national, but also at European level.

BAGSO is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee and of the Administration Council of AGE Platform Europe. In addition, BAGSO is involved in some European projects on active ageing, new technologies, social inclusion, long-term care and social innovation.

One of BAGSO's activities in 2011 will be a survey of its members on age friendly environments. We hope to get comprehensive and vivid information on the perceived problems but also on ideas for solutions. This year's annual conference will focus on age-friendly cities as well – to be held 20<sup>th</sup> Oct/2011 in Hamburg. Moreover, BAGSO will be in charge of coordinating Germany's activities for the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity 2012.

Click here for information on [BAGSO](#), and for other projects BAGSO is involved in, such as [WeDO \(Wellbeing and Dignity for Older People\)](#)



## EMIL's Resources

One of EMIL's aims is to develop ways of exchanging and distributing resources, ideas, knowledge and expertise in the field. Therefore, EMIL provides a range of intergenerational resources to support individuals and organisations with the development and promotion of their work. Our resources include a range of [publications](#) including evaluation reports and guides; [case studies](#) providing examples of good practice; [national profiles](#) highlighting key trends and initiatives in EMIL member countries; concept and position papers on a variety of topics and [useful links](#) to other organisations connected to the intergenerational field across Europe.

A few recent examples added to our collection that pertain to the topic of this newsletter include:

- EMIL National Profile – [Northern Ireland April 2011](#);
- Concept paper – [Botanical Gardens, Intergenerational Learning & Scientific Priorities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Botanical Gardens as a specific setting that fosters intergenerational learning \(Slovenia\)](#);
- Position Paper – [EMIL's response to 2012 European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity](#);
- Concept Paper – **Space, Intergenerational Ties and Intergenerational Learning and Lifelong Learning (Slovenia).**

Click here to learn more about EMIL's [Thematic Working Groups](#) or recent [publications](#).

If you are interested in submitting a publication, use our [online submission form](#).

# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

## Resources

### Creating Liveable Cities for all Ages: Intergenerational Strategies and Initiatives

This paper examines developments related to trends of population aging and discusses patterns and issues associated with youthful populations. It then reviews the emergence of a normative platform for creating child-friendly cities and argues that their characteristics significantly overlap with elder-friendly cities. This paper identifies benefits and challenges or synergistic efforts to create liveable cities for all ages. The conclusion suggests strategic steps and a framework for the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies.

[Download a copy of this article.](#)

### Creating Age-Friendly Communities – Generations, Summer, 2009, Vol 33 (2)

What makes a good place to grow old? This question, not a focus as young towns, cities, and communities evolved, is now compelling as populations aging is recognised as a demographic revolution. This edition of the journal looks at the current state of efforts within the field of aging and beyond to address this concern.

To order a copy of this journal, [click here](#).

### Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide

Informed by WHO's approach to active ageing, the purpose of this [Guide](#) is to engage cities to become more age-friendly so as to tap the potential that older people represent for humanity. To understand the characteristic of an age-friendly city, it was essential to go to the source – older city dwellers. The results from these focus groups led to the development of a set of age-friendly city checklists in this guide.

[Click here](#) to read more about “*What makes a city age-friendly: London's contribution to the WHO's Age-Friendly Cities Project*”.

### Age Friendly Communities – International Approaches

This paper is based on a multi-disciplinary research project to build a holistic picture of what makes an ‘age-friendly community’ might look like in 2020. This project will have a central theme of ‘inclusive design’ and will be using a series of case studies based on around the residents of an imaginary community and will highlight how the home, the neighbourhood and services could be delivered in a way which promotes quality of life, choice and inclusion for older people. This paper explores international approaches adopted nationally by different countries across the world, with the aim of becoming ‘Age-Friendly’ and enhancing quality of life of residents and communities. [Download a copy of this paper.](#)

[Click here](#) to read more about “A Guide to Age Friendly Communities in the North: People and Places 2020”.

### Social Interactions in Urban Public Spaces

This research focuses on the use of different public spaces in urban areas. It draws on a case study of a year-long research project in a market town in England. The study set out to examine how different people use public spaces and analyse how social interactions vary by age, gender, or place. Findings were considered in terms of their relevance for emerging policy agendas on shared and contested spaces, safety and security, intergenerational relationships, and the management of public space. To read this report, [click here](#).

### Facing the Future: Creating the Age-Friendly City Conference Report

Following Manchester's acceptance into the WHO's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities, the Council wanted to strengthen the programme by developing practical collaborations and delivering new projects that can help to reshape urban neighbourhoods and services in line with age-friendly approaches and principles. In order to help the city to deliver on its objectives, a working policy conference in partnership with the Beth Johnson Foundation and the Centre for Social Gerontology - Keele University, was organised.

[Click here](#) to read this report, which gives a brief background to this work, an overview of the partnership arrangements, details of the pre-conference series of seminars and a brief overview of the conference itself.

# European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

## News & Events:



### **Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors – June 27-29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Edinburgh, Scotland**

This conference focuses on research into the design and provision of accessible outdoor environments for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. It highlights the importance of inclusive environments in improving the quality of life of individuals at different life stages and explores the links between the design and planning of communities – urban & rural – and enhanced health and wellbeing.

[Click here](#) for more information about the event.

### **The Competitive Advantage of Age-Friendly Cities June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Newcastle, England**

This free seminar will include presentations from participants involved in cities that are part of the WHO Age Friendly City network, and those implementing age friendliness through other strategies, researchers working on age friendly design and implementation, more integrated services and sustainable home and community design, including age friendly technologies.

For further information on the seminar, [click here](#).

### **1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Age-Friendly Cities – Building the WHO Global Network: 28-30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2011 Dublin, Ireland**

The conference will bring together a broad range of leaders and senior managers from across the world including members of the Age-Friendly Cities Global Network, CEOs and senior managers of municipal authorities including planners, architects and elected representatives interested in or already championing an age-friendly city or community initiative.

Participants will also include senior professionals across the public, private and voluntary sectors in areas such as transport, health care and housing, research and academia, and key older people's organisations.

For the information on the conference, [click here](#).

### **A Great Place to Grow Older: How Manchester is developing an Age-friendly City**

Manchester's older residents together with statutory, voluntary and independent agencies are leading further development of partnership work and supporting varied initiatives to improve elders' quality of life in Manchester. The aim is to tackle the city's health and other inequalities and address the specific challenges of growing older in deprived urban areas. Manchester 'Valuing Older People' (VOP) launched its Ageing Strategy in October 2009 and during implementation of its 'Generations Together' programme in June, 2010, the city joined the global network of Age-friendly Cities.

The city is the first in the UK to join the World Health Organisation (WHO) network, with four other Age-Friendly Cities initiatives in Europe and only nine globally. The table below shows the frameworks of the Manchester and WHO approaches with different strands of 'Age-Friendly' and 'Lifetime Neighbourhoods'.

Current issues and opportunities relate to Manchester's older residents still being among the poorest in the country, the economic downturn, public services' budget proposals and redesigns of services. Work on midlife and intergenerational issues, especially around income, employment, learning and active/positive ageing has never been more crucial.

Frameworks of the approaches	
WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities	Manchester: A Great Place to Grow Older
Outdoor spaces and buildings	Lifetime Neighbourhoods: - Environment - Community Safety
Housing	- Housing
Transportation	- Transport
Social participation	<i>Cross-cutting themes:</i> - <i>improving Engagement</i> - <i>improving Relationships</i>
Respect and social inclusion	- <i>promoting Equality</i>
Civic participation and employment	Income and Employment
Communication and information	Culture and Learning
Community support and health services	Healthy Ageing Care and Support services

For more information on Manchester's initiative, [click here](#).