



What is ForAge?

Jim Soulsby

University of Leicester.

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“ ForAge is a European multi-lateral network which has the central aim of promoting and communicating the experiences of lifelong learning for older people to create higher standards of practice throughout Europe.



“ ForAge is designed to make wider and better use of all the rich later life learning experiences funded through Grundtvig and elsewhere; building upon them, sharing information, analysing and assessing the value and impact on education and ageing policies, disseminating research evidence, and creating networks to do this.



- “ **The ForAge network started in**
- “ Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Hungary, The Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ireland and the United Kingdom.
- “ But we work across all of Europe.



Why ForAge?

- “ Lots of useful learning experiences getting lost.
- “ Older people no longer a focus in Europe despite demographic changes.
- “ Older people absent from adult education. (perhaps as few as 2 in every 25 people over age 65 participating in learning across Europe.)



- “ Education for and with older people is not just about providing entertainment and something to do. Later life learning is the key to older people making important decisions about their lives, exploring their pasts, understanding their present situation and asserting their own future.
- “ Later life learning does have health, personal, financial and societal benefits.
- “ Healthy ageing strategies cannot succeed without acknowledging where later life learning fits.



What have we done?

- “ Set up a website to promote issues, events, emerging evidence and discussions
- “ Develop a database to store and access information.
- “ Undertaken discussions
- “ Produced regular newsletters – often translated from English about issues.



- “ Produced two annual reports of achievements and progress.
- “ Contacted national governments about issues, policies, statistical evidence of learning & areas of concern to ForAge.
- “ Established links with other networks, projects & partnerships.
- “ Organised conferences.
- “ Undertaken surveys of issues.



What sort of issues?

- “ Intergenerational learning
- “ Availability of and ability in information technology
- “ Excluded older people – migrants, refugee & asylum seekers, minority ethnic communities.
- “ Learning for health & well being.
- “ Learning for volunteering.



Current work

- “ The survey of issues
- “ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VQNRJV5>
- “ Continuing to promote issues.
- “ Forwarding results of discussions – like this conference.
- “ Building strategic links across Europe.
- “ Expanding the network – our declaration: -



The value of the ForAge portal in an ageing European society

“ We, the participating organisations in the ForAge project, a European Grundtvig multilateral network funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme, have developed a declaration on the value of the ForAge portal. This is an internet-based and interactive facility for sharing information that is accessible to all stakeholders within later-life learning, essential for creating higher standards of practice throughout Europe and taking forward the aims and aspirations of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012.



- “ Since the first European Year of Older People and Intergenerational Solidarity in 1993 there have been many pan-European exchanges, projects, training events, seminars, programmes and networks concerned with learning in later life. The numbers increased significantly with the highly successful Grundtvig programme proving impetus and funding for imaginative and innovative work across all of Europe.
- “ However, it is clear that in European countries we have not made best use of all these rich experiences in terms of building upon them, sharing information, analysing, researching and assessing value and impact on education and ageing policies and creating suitable effective networks to stimulate progress. The ForAge network is designed to help promote best practice in the field of learning for older people and active ageing and to broaden knowledge of past projects and experiences to help build improved later-life learning.



- “ I [name], on behalf of the organisation I represent [organisation], [country], declare that:
- “ We recognise the relevance and usefulness of the ForAge portal as an archive and access point for EU and other initiatives intersecting with later-life learning. It provides information on relevant new policy directions and connects later-life learning ideas, projects, policy, research and the voices of older people, and promotes an integrated and coherent approach for future policy and practice;
- “ We wish to support and be a member of the ForAge network in order to develop dialogue and sharing experiences with key national and European politicians, decision makers, representative organisations and older citizens concerning emerging and key themes and issues in later-life learning;
- “ We aspire to promote and work with the ForAge network as a free-standing group for later-life learning in Europe.



ForAge: - a network for all

- “ Older people and older learners
- “ Research communities
- “ Policy makers – education & ageing strategies
- “ Educational practitioners
- “ Education funders and managers.
- “ All agencies which work with older people.



The future?

- “ A continuing but expanding network
- “ To gather, analyse, comment and share information.
- “ To organise training
- “ To run conferences
- “ To promote and provoke
- “ To bring agencies and sectors together.



Therefore

ForAge

www.foragenetwork.eu

Q.E.D.



Thank you

Jim Soulsby

University of Leicester.

jim.soulsby@btinternet.com

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ForAge

Forage for later-life learning
Building on European experience

