

Senior Trainees on Coding

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NEWSLETTER
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Dear readers,

Log into our second Newsletter. Read the messages from Silver Code project partners to find out that there have been many developments in the Silver Code project itself as well project partners' countries regarding older people as ICT users and creators of ICT contents. European Code Week is approaching, conferences are taking place all over Europe, digital exclusion and techno stress of older people are diminishing... Life is back after a long hot summer.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

2nd transnational project meeting was held in Ljubljana Ljubljana, May 25-26, 2017

The project partners met in the capital of Slovenia for a transnational meeting devoted to the overview of the work accomplished by the partners, but also to the planning their future tasks.

The agenda? First, there was an in depth discussion on the survey conducted in the partners' countries regarding the older people's overall ICT competencies and their desire to take part in a training on coding. The majority of the partners had some initial difficulties reaching older people. This was expected since coding is supposed to be only for young ICT men and not for all individuals and groups, particularly not for women and older people and there are not so many addresses where groups of older learners can be reached either. Next, the first draft of the future manual was designed jointly by all partners taking into account their diverse expertise.

The web page was planned and later designed by the Portuguese partner. Dissemination channels were approached.

The project partners taking part in the meeting decided on the common matrix to be applied for their country research in the state of art of old age and ICT skills.

It was decided that the partners will continue feeding the project Facebook page and will be finishing the so called *Project Brochure* containing basic information about the project. This task has already been accomplished.

Now, a question for you.

Do you know what your [country's digital index](#) is?



An interview with Dusana Findeisen for the Slovenian National TV following the project meeting.

Photo by Karina Sirk

MESSAGES FROM PARTNERS

A MESSAGE FROM SLOVENIA

Slovenian Third Age University is launching an E-seniors Symposium within E-regions
Ljubljana, September 2017

Slovenian U3A has been intensively approaching rather new issues regarding older people; **silver economy and the issue of digital inclusion of older people versus their digital exclusion**. Thus an E-seniors Symposium is being prepared by Slovenian U3A and its students uniting professionals and researchers from different environments who are sensitive to the problematics of both older people and their inclusion. **Digital inclusion of older people**, as one can imagine, is about equality while **digital exclusion** is mostly about inequalities among generations and social groups. "Moreover digital inclusion is about **interconnectivity of individuals and organisations** in the contemporary networked society" has been emphasised in a paper by Dušana Findeisen, one of the Slovenian Silver code project partners.

CodeWeek.

From the interview with Katja Koren Ošiljak
published on EPALE by U3A

"Digital literacy and European Code Week. Digital literacy is not exactly knowledge and digital skills, it is also about the level of abilities needed to understand coding and start coding on one's own. Katja Koren Ošiljak is not an ICT graduate. She studied communication sciences and is currently Ambassador of the European Code Week." (...)

"European Code Week? It all started in 2013 with building European *Digital Single Market Strategy*, maximizing the potential of ICT. Young assistants of the European Commission suggested coding for all would be something

really fresh, new and above all needed in contemporary and future society.

Programming should be part of the school curriculum as to help young people understand what the coding background of their beloved social networks is, like Facebook, etc. It should increase their interest in coding, make them observant, stimulating their thinking and understanding that truth is never unique nor final" (...).

»In Slovenia 53% of the population are at least basic Internet users. Across Europe the highest rates of **weekly internet use** are found in the Nordic countries, Luxemburg, etc. In the Netherlands, the rates are around 90% or more The lowest rates of weekly internet use are in Romania, Bulgaria, Italy. Half of their population, or more, do not use Internet on a weekly basis, nevertheless, the number of **non-Internet users**, individuals who have never used Internet is going down in Europe, but still 20% of the EU population do not use Internet. (Digital Agenda Scoreboard 2014 – Digital Inclusion and Skills, in "*Digital Inclusion and Skills*", 2015)."

"In Slovenia there have been several initiatives important for spreading coding, among which **CodeCatz**. CodeCatz ended up founding **Django Girls Store**, a non-profit organisation that empowers and helps women to organize free, one-day programming workshops by providing tools, resources and support. Their goal is to bring more amazing women into the world of technology and increase the diversity in the tech community. They believe that. They are making technology more approachable by creating simple tools and resources designed with empathy.

More:

<https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/blog/technology-people-and-everyone-should-be-able-build-it>

A MESSAGE FROM AUSTRIA

In Vienna the coming days will be digital

In Vienna, Austria, the conference DigitalDays2017 will be held from September 20th to 21st, 2017 at the University of Vienna. This time, understanding and applying technology for people of all generations is a major theme of the conference. Technologies and services in the area of autonomous ageing are intended to increase autonomy, social participation and quality of life of older people. An experts talk on the topic will demonstrate the opportunities and possibilities of these technologies. Among other things, the project WAALTeR (Wiener AAL TestRegion) will be presented, which deals with the demographic and health policy challenges as well as the ubiquitous digitization of everyday life.

A MESSAGE FROM BULGARIA

Giving impetus to Older Persons' Talents

In Bulgaria International Day of Older Persons, -1st October, has become an opportunity to highlight the important contribution older people make to society. The topic of the year? "Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Oldest Persons' Talents, their Contribution to and their Participation in Society". Doesn't this sound familiar? Isn't the Silver-Code project committed to the same objectives since equipping older people with advanced digital skills seems to be one of the most up-to-date means to support older people's freedom to express themselves, to be enterprising, to share their knowledge and to contribute towards many spheres of our common life.

Znanie Association will be taking this opportunity to make the project more visible. Will be taking part in the initiative by *Tulip Association* "Society of all ages". Now, as regards the developments in the Silver Code project....Finalizing the training modules is currently the most important task and also the most visible one among the different project tasks and activities.

A MESSAGE FROM ITALY

In Italy coding is definitely intergenerational

The Code Week, "*a grassroots initiative which aims to bring coding and digital literacy to everybody in a fun and engaging way*" is approaching. It will be held from 7th to 22nd October 2017. There will be many initiatives relating to coding and computational thinking, open to everyone, also to older people. Eurocrea Merchant Ltd is also going to organise a special event on 21st October, in the framework of the other Erasmus Plus co-funded project, "Fostering Coding Education in Europe", in Italy, close to Milano, where adults, children, their grandfathers and grandmothers will interact in "Everyday's coding workshops" as to properly celebrate the coding week.

Intergenerational programs are defined as "activities or programs that increase cooperation, interaction, or exchange between any two or more generations. They involve the sharing of skills, building knowledge etc. between the old and the young."

A MESSAGE FROM POLAND

To know, to be, to do, to belong – older people's learning for their social and digital inclusion

The Polish National Agency has nominated the most outstanding Erasmus+ projects for the national award "EDU-Inspiracje 2017" ("*EDU-Inspiration 2017*"). Among them is the project *Key competencies for Lifelong Learning in education of seniors* developed by Pro Scientia Publica Foundation, *aiming at* personal growth of older people and their acquiring of key competencies for living in information society. Though being the fastest growing segment of ICT users, older people are still considered as the most vulnerable social group in the age and realm of informatics and new technologies, at risk of social and digital exclusion. So older people were the target group of the project. The project was meeting

two types of older people's needs; the needs resulting from deficiencies and the needs of development. The project resulted mainly in devising an educational programme intended to foster older people's social and interpersonal skills (listening skills, different frames of reference to be taken into account), foreign language skills and ICT competencies. The methods used: life history, biographical learning and biography writing workshops for older people. The curriculum is available in English, Polish and Italian.

A MESSAGE FROM PORTUGAL

Why wouldn't you register for a Conference in Lisbon?

As reported on our Facebook page, [SilverCode was presented](#), by AidLearn, at the I. International Scientific Conference on Educational Projects for Seniors, in February 2017, in Porto, Portugal. Now we are delighted to invite you to the upcoming second edition of this Conference in Lisbon, promoted by RUTIS (Association of Third Age Universities Network) with the support of its national and international partners, including AidLearn. Supported by the Porto 4 Ageing Consortium and the Lisbon City Council, [the II. International Scientific Conference on Educational Projects for Seniors, will be held in Lisbon from 30th to 31st October 2017.](#)

Objectives: (1) Disseminating the results of educational projects for older people developed world wide; (2) Promoting lifelong education, especially for older people and

(3) Regulating the World Network of Educational Projects for the 50+.

For further information and registration, visit <http://lisbon2017.rutis.pt>

A MESSAGE FROM ROMANIA

In the world of new technologies young people are natives while older people are migrants

University Polytechnic Timisoara, the Romanian partner in the Silver Code project, has been laying down the Silver Code guidelines for training older people in the field of coding.

Why should older people learn coding?

To increase their overall computer skills, to get familiar with the language of coding. Young people are natives in the area of new technologies, older people are just migrants worried about how to keep pace with younger people on the top of everything.

They do not have around them other people from whom they can learn on a daily basis. They are media traditionalists, they do not like technologies to be invading their lives.

So the coding training programme is to make older people more confident and also enable them to have a common topic to discuss with younger generations.

The modules to be developed are: basic digital skills; computational thinking; fine tuning with digital language; basics of computer programming; everyday coding;



THE PARTNERSHIP

The Coordinating organisation is the [Znanie Association](#), (Bulgaria)

Partners – [Eurocrea Merchant](#) (Italy); [Slovenian Third Age University UTŽO](#) (Slovenia), [Die Berater](#) (Austria), [AidLearn](#) (Portugal); [University of Polytechnics in Timisoara](#) (Romania); [University of Wroclaw – The University of the Third Age](#) (Poland)



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