

European Women in older Age - EWA Grundtvig Learning Partnership 2010-2012



Coordination:

Zentrum für Allgemeine wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung (ZAWIW)
Ulm, Germany

Partners:

Centro Documentazione Donna
Ferrara, Italy

Università delle Tre Età
Macomer, Italy

Red Cross Organisation
Sofia, Bulgaria

University of South Bohemia
Faculty of Health and Social Studies
Ceské Budejovice, Czechia

Volkshochschule Hernalts
Vienna, Austria

Women's Employment Information
Centre Association
Kaunas, Lithuania

In today's society it became usual for women to get older than 80 years. Which turning-points and challenges did they have to master in their lives? Which professional, social and other activities did they take up and how do they perceive their ageing?

These questions were asked by groups of women in seven European countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Lithuania and Czech Republic, reflecting at the same time on their own life experiences. After 86 interviews were conducted with women aged 70+ in the project partners' countries, selected life stories were compared on an international basis. The outcomes provide valuable insight into the lives of older women in Europe and their aging process and serve as a source of inspiration for the participants themselves and for others.

The life stories of selected inspiring women from the different countries are documented in English and in the respective national language by different media: the interviews on the project website, exemplary life stories on a DVD and finally in a book.



Members of the seven European project groups

www.european-women.eu



Ensuring a society for all ages:
Promoting quality of life and active ageing
UNECE 2012 Ministerial Conference, Vienna, Austria

Project Title:
„European Women in Older Age“
supported by EU Lifelong Learning -Programm

In today's society it is no longer unusual for women to become over 80 years old. Which turning-points and challenges did they have to master in their life?

Which professional, social and other activities did they take up and how do they perceive their ageing?

These questions are asked by groups of women 50+ in the seven project partner countries, reflecting at the same time on their own life experiences. Following interviews conducted with women in each partner country, selected life stories are compared on an international basis. The outcomes will provide insight into the lives of older women in Europe and their aging process and serve as a source of inspiration for the participants themselves and for others.

Why is it considered a good practice and lessons learnt:

The project is intended to make the use of new media applications like Skype, online translation or forums tools available to the target group and foster their utilization. The participants will be introduced to creative writing and interview techniques which the women 50+ will apply when dealing with the aging experiences of the women 70+. At the end of the project a selection of vitae of interesting and inspiring women from all over Europe will be published in a book. It will be in English and parallel, all contents will be published in the respective national language of each partner.

Timeline/duration of the project 2010 – 2012

Relevance for the UNECE region: Through fostering exchanges between women from various European countries, the project also contributed to a better understanding on the respective specific social, political and historical situations in the UNECE region.

Further aims were the initiation of a network within adult education in Europe and the development of friendship.

We see this project as a valuable contribution for the „European Year for Active Ageing“. Done by women 50plus with women 70plus.

Location of the project: Vienna, VHS-Hernalts, Zawiw Ulm, University of South Bohemia, Tre ete Ferrara and Macomer, Red Cross Sofia, Kaunas/Lithauen Womens Information Center.

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