

Report: re. A structured training course as part of the E.U. Lifelong Learning Programme – Grundtvig In Service training & professional development for teachers and trainers.

Funded by: Ecorys UK national Agency

Title: Learning in Later Life and Inter-Generational Cooperation

Venue & Time: Larnaka, Cyprus. 25 -28th May 2011

Facilitators: Jim Soulsby, Jumbo Klerq, Klitos Symeonides.

Copies to: First Taste Trustees

Baroness Estelle Morris –

The Head of Health & Social Care for Derbyshire County Council –

The Derbyshire County Council's cabinet member for Adult Education.

The Headmaster and tutors from Highfields School Matlock

The Headley Trust

The managers of all Derbyshire County Council run care homes and day centres and privately run homes, who are involved with training programmes currently being delivered throughout Derbyshire by First Taste Charity and funded by Derbyshire County Council. –

As a representative of First Taste Charity I participated in the Cyprus gathering - Learning in Later Life-and Intergenerational Cooperation. Below: is a factual report plus my overall impression and comments.

There were 26 participants representing 12 European countries ie. Italy, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia & UK

Every day of the seminar started with plenary sessions. Each day had a theme. **Thursday** - Valuing ageing and older people through learning. **Friday** - Intergenerational learning and active ageing. **Saturday** - Learning purposes and the role of the educator. **Sunday** - Looking back and forward. After a talk about the theme by one of the facilitators we were split up into smaller working groups for discussions - brainstorming sessions - evidence gathering - practical development. The three facilitators took turns to give informative talks backed up with statistics/data and ICT presentation. Splitting us regularly into different mixed groups gave everyone attending an opportunity to meet and talk.

Time was given each day for 3 attendees to give a 5 minute power point presentation about their own particular project. Those we saw were extremely interesting and I for one would have been really interested in seeing more presentations from other countries. Unfortunately time did not allow though a lot of networking was achieved.

I made specific contacts at the seminar with representatives of, and trainers in, adult education, from Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Germany. Email contacts are to be continued because of mutual interests in similar programmes to the First Taste programme TOPIC (Tutoring Older People in Care.)

The two Irish participants- full time educationalists - were really interested in the TOPIC programme, especially the integration of care staff training and the structuring which incorporates certification for successful care staff. Discussions occurred about looking into HOW TO link into Life Long Learning with a nationally recognised certification. I had already identified a pathway but more work needs to be done. Paul from the Republic of Ireland is attempting to take it further. Germany also expressed interest in these discussions. I will watch with interest: Northern Ireland being a part of UK

Email contacts are to be continued with the Romania and Lithuania representatives for adult education. They are particularly interested in continuing learning for frail older people. By my own initiative and along with 4 other representatives from UK and Germany we have offered to mentor/advise these 2 countries. Romania especially as they have nothing in place for older people in retirement or who need care. Distant learning activities are a strong possibility.

I would hope to be able to report any activity over the next year between myself and the following countries - Germany, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Lithuania and Romania. It was suggested by the facilitators to continue networking on the specifically designed seminar 2011 website.

Participants from other countries had specific remits or positions with the age group 50 plus. First Taste Charity work with the frail older people group, (generally 80 plus, and up to at this moment in time, 105years old) in care, and in some cases, suffering from dementia.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING was the title for one discussion group. There were very few attendees who had any understanding of intergenerational work and I had hoped to deliver the First Taste Intergenerational power point presentation. Unfortunately, time ran out and it did not happen. Though I did get a vocal opportunity to answer the question: *Do I believe in Intergenerational learning – or is this a myth?* I was able to state quite categorically that intergenerational learning can work & that I had evidence to prove my statement.

Young for Old within Germany's Life Long Learning, mainly aims at 60 plus and the active elderly Hungary regularly arrange family days & weeks delivering intergenerational activities.

Other countries in our group have no intergenerational activities happening.

I found no one else who works specifically with the group that First Taste work with – frail older people in day centres, care/nursing homes along with some who suffer some degree of Dementia with the exception of AgeUK.

The First Taste packs which consisted of: TOPIC information & modules – First Taste's last report – 2 First Taste CD's re: TOPIC and Intergenerational work were taken away by Ireland, Germany, Romania, Lithuania, Age UK.

My power point intergenerational presentation & information was requested by, and has been forwarded to, Professor Keith Percy of Lancaster University. He had signed on to the Cyprus course specifically to gain more knowledge of intergenerational learning. He knew of the work of First Taste (I was very surprised when he spoke of our Derbyshire work and the fact that we have become "*quite famous*".)

A German colleague has also requested the same information.

Another German colleague is visiting Derbyshire during August & I hope to show her one of First Taste's activity workshops.

One other discussion that caught my attention was talk of an Australian project called "Men's Sheds." Here, the problem of interesting men in activities has been addressed. I know this to be a problem here in Derbyshire.

My overall opinion after 5 days of networking with adult educational representatives from 14 countries is: that First Taste is in the forefront within the EU with 'hands on', practical and arts educational programmes for delivery to care home residents. The fact that there is the added double structure within the programmes of further training for care staff - in holistic care needed for frail, older people - is essential. This point interested Ireland. The subject of care staff training was a constant source of social discussion amongst the Cyprus gathering.

First Taste Charity should feel proud of their achievements over the past 14 years and fully justified in their persistence to develop arts educational programmes for frail older people in care, using professional, qualified tutors/teachers to deliver workshops to both the elderly and to the care staff.

I also think Derbyshire County Council merits praise for being forward thinking enough to support and fund First Taste Charity in their work within care/nursing homes/day centres in Derbyshire. Over 14 years this work has progressed steadily from the rural boundaries of the Derbyshire Dales to now incorporate the holistic training for care staff in care/nursing homes and day centres throughout Derbyshire, something which ultimately benefits the frail older people in Derbyshire care.

Other funding bodies which understood and recognised that the aims of First Taste Charity were worth funding are listed in the yearly First Taste Charity Report.