

2024

ea
GRUNDTVIG AWARD
excellence in adult education



Transforming Lives, Communities and Society



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS



Co-funded by
the European Union



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1.

Introduction

Every year, the EAEA celebrates innovation and excellence in non-formal adult education. The annual EAEA Grundtvig Award collects examples of great practices and brings creative and out-of-the-box results that create change, new partnerships and connections, new methodologies and an understanding of how we can work in adult learning.

The EAEA Grundtvig Award is named after Nikolai Frederik Grundtvig (1783 - 1872), a Danish philosopher and educator who was significantly influential in the development of non-formal adult learning in Europe and throughout the world. He provided the adult education sector with a foundational philosophy that underpins much of the work in lifelong learning. Grundtvig emphasised the intrinsic value of learning as a foundation for living meaningful and enjoyable lives. This idea is central to the adult education that EAEA is promoting, with its focus on basic skills, valuing learning and active citizenship.

Grundtvig laid the groundwork for the development of learning centres in all kinds of contexts, from residential educational institutions to agricultural co-operatives. He linked intellectual and cultural growth with group development, a prelude to civic relationships.



What?

- The EAEA Grundtvig Award was launched in 2003 by EAEA to recognise and celebrate excellence in adult education.
- The Award is given to an organisation or project consortium that presents the best transnational project in adult learning.
- The Award has a different theme each year.
- It reaches out to every region in Europe.
- It inspires the practitioners, course providers, and project participants to value their work and to link more closely with one another.

How?

- The call is published annually in spring.
- Transnational partners are eligible to enter.
- The projects can include videos, photographs, books, PowerPoint presentations, slides and posters.
- Any product of the project that is accessible to the public, presented in a comprehensible way, and which may be useful and/or transferable to other adult education organisations is eligible to enter the competition.

Categories & criteria

The EAEA Grundtvig Award 2024 call was published in two categories: Local/regional/national initiatives and transnational initiatives. Criteria are as follows:

- Outstanding creativity and innovation
- Transferability of the project and its outcomes to other regions
- Plans and capacity to upscale (where relevant)
- Excellence in project presentation in terms of writing, summarising, and supporting with visuals
- Effectiveness of the initiative, programme or partnership
- Demonstration of positive impact on learners and communities
- The presentation of testimonials from learners or trainers

EAEA Grundtvig Award 2024: Transforming Lives, Communities and Society

Adult learning holds the potential not only to equip individuals with new individual skills but also to reshape perspectives and be a catalyst for societal change. Grounded in principles of openness, social inclusion, and justice, our 2024 theme underscores the profound impact adult learning can have on individuals and the broader community.

With the award, EAEA wanted to highlight initiatives that

- Foster innovative methodologies that empower adult learners to become agents of change in their communities, promoting active citizenship and social inclusion.
- Encourage projects that promote societal diversity, fostering mutual understanding and solidarity within diverse communities.
- Support initiatives that leverage new technologies to expand access to adult learning opportunities, particularly for marginalised or underserved communities, fostering inclusion and cohesion.
- Promote projects that integrate a proactive mindset into adult learning curricula, equipping learners with the knowledge and skills to contribute to a more engaged society.
- Advocate for the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning experiences in communities empowering individuals to actively participate in personal and societal advancement.



2.

Transnational initiatives



WINNER:

ADELE - Advancing Digital Empowerment of Libraries in Europe

Photo: Hilla Kurki

ADELE - Advancing Digital Empowerment of Libraries in Europe

What?

The ADELE project aimed to advance the digital empowerment of libraries across Europe by offering a free self-evaluation tool and training opportunities for library staff, managers, and users. Based on the EU's SELFIE framework, the ADELE tool helps libraries assess their digital readiness, providing a snapshot of current practices and highlighting areas for improvement. The tool is free, customizable, easy to use, and available in multiple languages. It engages library staff and users in evaluating digital technology use to enhance services and community involvement.

How?

The project involved 100 libraries in the validation and testing of the ADELE self-assessment tool, followed by capacity-building activities. Four international training events were held in Italy, Belgium, Bulgaria, and Ireland, focusing on digital innovation in public libraries. The project also developed a Digital Toolkit, including webinars, a user manual for the ADELE tool, a communication kit, and a collection of case studies showcasing digital innovation in libraries.

Impact

The ADELE project engaged librarians and managers from 17 European countries, who actively participated in validating the tool, testing rounds, focus groups, webinars, and international training events. The ADELE network fostered a sustainable approach, with libraries encouraged to share insights and tools internally, extending the project's impact. The project's success demonstrated the potential of adapting the SELFIE tool to other sectors.



Advancing Digital Empowerment
of Libraries in Europe

“ This recognition will amplify the project reach and impact at the international level, allowing more libraries and organisations to get familiar with the ADELE self assessment tool and the educational materials. ” - Elisabetta Mei

Facts

Name:

ADELE - Advancing Digital Empowerment of Libraries in Europe

Coordinator:

European Grants International Academy (Italy)

Focus:

Digitalisation of libraries

Partners:

Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency (Ireland), Public Libraries 2030 (Belgium), ICCU (Italy), The Global Libraries – Bulgaria Foundation

Funding:

Erasmus+

Contact:

Elisabetta Mei,
elisabettamei @egina.eu

Links:

<https://www.adele-project.eu/>



highly commendable

What?

The CAXATO project (Camino de Santiago: Camino de intercambio y de aprendizaje cultural europeo) aims to create an educational ecosystem that empowers adults over the age of 50 to take an active role on their educational journey. The project centres around the Camino de Santiago, a European heritage of cultural exchange and learning.

How?

The project will develop an interactive map and a short film based on audiovisual materials collected from adults who participated in the 3 stages of the Camino pilgrimage in Italy/ France, La Rioja and Galicia. Learners engage in hands on learning and produce audiovisual content reflecting their journey, supported by a virtual training space. The project is structured into three work packages: academic knowledge generation, experiential learning, and a postgraduate course.

Impact

CAXATO aims to enhance the skills of senior learners, promoting active citizenship and community participation. The project highlights the importance of strategic alliances in expanding educational impact and offers a model for integrating cultural heritage into adult education.

Facts



Photo: CAXATO project

Name: CAXATO	Coordinator: University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)	Focus: Lifelong learning for adults over 50
Partners: La Fundación de la Universidad de La Rioja (Spain), Socialdocs (Spain), El Institut de Recherche Jacquaire (France), CIAPE (Italy), European Grants International Academy (Italy)		Funding: Erasmus+
Links: https://www.proyectocaxato.eu/		Contact: Luca Paolucci, lucapaolucci@egina.eu

What?

AIDA (Alzheimer’s Patients Interaction through Digital and Arts) project aims to create a supportive and accessible environment for people with Alzheimer’s and their caregivers. The project develops tools in the field of social inclusion and the use of digital media in combination with other skills.

How?

AIDA developed a unique methodology and toolkit by integrating expertise from social health, cultural, and digital sectors. The tools and methods were tested by Alzheimer patients and their caregivers during local meetings in the museums.

Impact

Adult education professionals in the involved sectors improved their existing skills and learned new ones. The project involved 21 professionals across sectors and created 14 learning scenarios. AIDA has paved the way for innovative cultural welfare policies by fostering international collaboration and enhancing professional skills.

Facts

Name:

AIDA - Alzheimer patients Interaction through Digital and Arts

Coordinator:

Patrizio Paoletti
Foundation (Italy)

Focus:

Inclusion of people with Alzheimer’s disease

Funding:

Erasmus+

Contact

Giorgia Marchionni,
giorgia@crowddreaminganew.world

Links:

www.artzheimer.eu

Partners:

CRHACK LAB Foligno 4D (Italy), Innovation Frontiers (Greece), The Office of Public Works - Heritage Services (Ireland), Alzheimer Bulgaria, Alzheimer Slovenia, Viborg Museum (Denmark). Associate partners: Test and Development Centre (Denmark), Dementia Unit Counselling and Activity Centre (Denmark), Diocesa Chapter Museum of Foligno (Italy), USL Umbria 2 (Italy), National Polytechnic Museum (Bulgaria), Blocks Day Care (Bulgaria), Athens Alzheimer Association (Greece), Vorres Museum (Greece), Alzheimer Society of Ireland.



Photo: Jonatas Fraolini

What?

The DIS-PLAY project (Combating Social Media Disinformation among Youth through Live Action Role Play) aims to enable educators to address online disinformation and media literacy among young adults using innovative learning methods. The project involves partner organisations from Germany, Sweden, Spain, and Romania.

How?

DIS-PLAY developed an educational Live Action Role Play (LARP) toolkit that includes a story scenario, guides, and play materials to explore disinformation topics like fake news, trolling, deep fakes, and hate speech. The project also features a mobile app for individual play at home.

Impact

DIS-PLAY has fostered digital literacy and critical thinking among young adults, using LARP to provide firsthand experience with disinformation dynamics in a safe environment. The project promotes the role of play in education, extending its reach through workshops, training activities, and international events, encouraging the use of LARP in daily educational practices.

Facts



Photo: DIS-PLAY project

Name:

DIS-PLAY (Combating Social Media Disinformation among Youth through Live Action Role Play)

Coordinator:

Hessischer Volkshochschulverband e.V. (Germany)

Focus:

Digital literacy and combating disinformation

Partners:

Studiefrämjandet (Sweden), LajvVerkstaden (Sweden), Inercia Digital (Spain), Monomyths (Romania)

Funding:

Erasmus+

Links:

<https://projectdisplay.eu>

Contact:

Steffen Wachter
wachter@vhs-in-hessen.de

What?

WISELIFE aims to combat ageism and promote active ageing by improving life satisfaction among older adults. The project addresses ageism through educational materials and a digital platform and encourages adult education providers to offer lifelong learning opportunities for the elderly.

How?

WISELIFE produced an international book on ageism, developed a training package for older adults, created a documentary documenting the project’s process, and launched a digital memory platform to preserve and share elderly individuals’ memories. These efforts are complemented by a toolkit for other education providers to implement similar programmes.

Impact

WISELIFE enhanced elderly participants’ life satisfaction, with notable improvements in most partner countries. The digital memory platform preserved and shared elderly experiences, increasing awareness of ageism. It also led to ongoing training in two countries and expanded networking opportunities, thereby raising societal awareness about ageism.

Facts



Name: WISELIFE: Raising Awareness about Ageism	Coordinator: Izmir University of Economics (Turkey)	Focus: Promoting active ageing
Partners: Bartın University (Turkey), University of the Aegean (Greece), Uniwersytet Lodzki (Poland), University of Szeged, Istituto Per Servizi Di Ricovero E Assistenza Agli Anziani (Italy)		Funding: Erasmus+
Links: https://wiselifeproject.com/		Contact: Prof. Dr. Nesrin Oruç Ertürk, nesrin.oruc@ieu.edu.tr

What?

Silver Books aims to empower seniors through digital storytelling, bridging generations and promoting lifelong learning. The project engages elderly participants in the creation of digital books, celebrating their memories and experiences, while enhancing their digital skills and reducing social isolation.

How?

Silver Books involves seniors, caregivers, and professionals from diverse backgrounds in creating a collection of 11 e-books enriched with photos, audio, and video. The project includes an e-learning module for caregivers, a digital literacy training for seniors, and an implementation guide to help other organisations replicate the initiative. These resources are available in multiple languages.

Impact

Silver Books has improved the digital literacy, self-confidence, and community engagement of elderly participants. Over 64,000 people were reached through dissemination actions, and more than 60 caregivers and 20 elderly individuals were involved in the creation of 11 e-books.

Facts



Photo: Silver Books project

Name: Silver Books	Coordinator: Les Apprimeurs (France)	Focus: Empowering seniors through digital literacy and storytelling
Partners: Desincoop (Portugal), Consorzio Solco Città Aperta (Italy), Logopsycom (Belgium)		Funding: Erasmus+
Links: https://silverbooks.eu/		Contact: Karine Duperret, karine@ lesapprimeurs.com

Act 4 Inclusion - Life in Theatre

What?

Act 4 Inclusion - Life in Theatre project aims to enhance educators’ skills by using social improvisation theatre, particularly for adults with special needs. It promotes non-formal education, fostering social inclusion for adults from diverse backgrounds.

How?

The project developed three tools: a manual for facilitators on improvisation theatre techniques, a board game, and an e-learning platform summarising the project’s methods and offering a digital library of resources. The tools were used in workshops and trainings, including in prisons and migrant centres, supporting personal and social development.

Impact

The project’s resources are widely used by organisations, helping adults overcome social barriers through artistic expression. The project’s innovative approach effectively addressed anxiety, depression, and social isolation among participants. Positive feedback from social workers and educators suggests potential for expansion.

Facts



Name: Act 4 Inclusion - Life in Theatre	Coordinator: Rosto Solidário (Portugal)	Focus: Social inclusion through theatre
Partners: CEIPES ETS - Centro Internazionale per la Promozione dell'Educazione e lo Sviluppo (Italy), Rede Inducar (Portugal), ASPAYM Castilla y León (Spain), Gamma (Romania)		Funding: Erasmus+
Links: https://act4inclusion.infoproject.eu/		Contact: Andrea Filippo Calabria, info@ceipes.org

What?

SUM (Seniors United against Misinformation) aims to empower European seniors (65+) to develop critical media literacy skills, combating misinformation and bridging the digital divide. The project fosters peer learning, encouraging seniors to become proactive and confident in navigating the digital landscape.

How?

SUM involves seniors, experts, and stakeholders in developing and piloting peer-to-peer media literacy trainings. The project began with a benchmarking report and has co-designed innovative, user-centred training sessions. An open-access toolkit, available in seven languages, will guide organisations in replicating these sessions across Europe.

Impact

SUM has increased seniors’ resilience to misinformation, boosted digital literacy, and fostered stronger social connections. It has also enhanced the capacity of stakeholders to deliver media literacy programmes for seniors, and established new partnerships across Europe. The initiative encourages seniors to remain active participants in society.

Facts



Photo: Ruth Pérez Castro

Name:

SUM - Seniors United against Misinformation

Coordinator:

Verificat (Spain)

Focus:

Empowering seniors through media literacy

Funding:

Erasmus+

Partners:

University of Lapland (Finland), Housatonic (Italy)

Links:

<https://www.wearesum.eu/>

Contact

Irene Tortajada,
irene@verificat.cat

2.9

Greencoin

What?

The Greencoin project aims to encourage pro-environmental behaviours and develop green skills among urban residents through gamification based on alternative economics. The project developed the PULA app which was piloted in Gdańsk, Poland.

How?

PULA rewarded users with “Good Coins” for eco-friendly actions like using public transport, recycling, and buying local products, which could be exchanged for sustainable goods. The project also involved research into effective reward systems and collaboration with city authorities to tailor the tool to local needs. Users were involved in the design of the app from the start.

Impact

The Greencoin project has demonstrated the effectiveness of using digital tools in promoting eco-friendly actions. It has engaged city authorities, local partners, and residents, providing insights and recommendations to support sustainable urban living.

Facts

Name: Greencoin	Coordinator: Gdańsk University of Technology (Poland)	Focus: Environmental education through gamification
Partners: Maria Grzegorzewska University, City Initiative Association, and SGH Warsaw School of Economics (Poland), Oslomet - Oslo Metropolitan University, and University of Stavanger (Norway)		Contact: Ewa Duda, duda.ewa@wp.pl
Funding: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway EEA Funds and the state of Poland via the National Centre for Research and Development		Links: http://greencoin.pl/



What?

ADaPT4Future (ADult People create Technologies for their Future) enhances STEAM skills among adults in Lithuania, Poland, and Italy, focusing on 3D printing and design-based thinking. The project addresses the limited availability of technological education for adults, especially those with fewer opportunities, including seniors, migrants, and people with disabilities.

How?

The project developed a methodological toolkit with educational materials, guidelines for educators, and research tools. Activities included training for educators and workshops for over 200 adult learners. Participants learned 3D modelling basics to design and print parts for household repairs, demonstrating the practical use of 3D technology.

Impact

ADaPT4Future fostered critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation skills, with 70% of participants stating that the skills gained could help with job opportunities. The project showed that FabLabs can cater to adults, expanding beyond their usual focus on children and youth.

Facts



Photo: ADaPT4Future project

Name:

ADaPT4Future
(ADult People create Technologies for their Future)

Coordinator:

Robotikos Mokykla
(Lithuania)

Focus:

Enhancing adult STEAM education

Partners:

NOVA Foundation (Poland), Municipality of Santarcangelo di Romagna (Italy), and Kaunas Municipal Vincas Kudirka Public Library (Lithuania)

Funding:

Erasmus +

Links:

<https://adapt4future.gaminu.eu/>

Contact:

Akvilė Gerulskytė,
akvile@robotikosmokykla.lt

What?

The COLAB (Improving Collaborative Working Between Correctional and Mental Health Services) project fostered innovative methodologies that can address complex challenges and promote adult learning, collaboration, and innovation within and between criminal justice related organisations and mental health care.

How?

COLAB developed a framework for integrated care of mentally ill prisoners, enhancing interagency practices and fostering collaboration through innovative methods like Change Laboratories. It produced resources such as an books, peer-reviewed articles, and practitioner guidelines.

Impact

COLAB generated significant scientific outcomes and has led to service improvements in prisons, transitional prisons, diversion and liaison services, police custody suites and third sector organisations. The results support adult education providers beyond the studied contexts.

Facts

Name:

The COLAB (Improving Collaborative Working Between Correctional and Mental Health Services)

Coordinator:

University of Stavanger (Norway)

Focus:

Collaboration between correctional and mental health services

Partners:

Helsinki University (Finland), The Footprints Project (UK), Bournemouth University (UK),University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Correctional Service Staff Academy (KRUS) (Norway), Finnish, Institute of Occupational Health (Finland), University College Absalon (Denmark), University College Molde(Norway, Van Mestag – Highly secured forensic psychiatric clinic (The Netherlands)

Funding:

Horizon 2020 (MSCA-RISE)

Contact

Sarah Hean, sarah.c.hean@uis.no and Anu Kajamaa, anu.kajamaa@helsinki.fi

Links:

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/734536>
<https://nettop.guru/wordpress/category/better-together/>
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-70661-6>



Photo: COLAB project

What?

Citizens Xelerator for Democratic and Civic Participation aims to enhance democratic literacy, civic engagement, and social empathy among adult learners. The project promotes active participation in democratic life by developing essential life competences, empowering adults, and fostering a sense of community.

How?

The project creates LifeComp cards for assessing and developing life competences, the Citizens Xelerator Model and Kit for setting up Action Labs in partner countries, and establishes a network of cooperating organisations. These tools are piloted through workshops and events in participating countries.

Impact

The developed resources are currently being adopted across various settings. Besides the partners of the consortium, the project’s network already includes 26 other organisations that will be involved in the implementation phase. The project expects to engage 2500 adults to reenforce their skills and empower them to be politically active in their communities.

Facts



Photo: Vacarelu Marin

Name:

Citizens Xelerator

Coordinator:

Mentortec – Serviços de Apoio a Projectos Tecnológicos S.A. (Portugal)

Focus:

Democratic and civic participation

Partners:

Dante (Croatia), Cesie (Italy), VHS CHAM (Germany), ACEFIR (Spain), ActionAid (Greece), APCEP (Portugal), Asociatia Euro Adult Education (Romania), AONTAS (Ireland)

Funding:

Erasmus+

Links:

<https://citizensxelerator.eu/>

Contact:

Andreia Monteiro, andreia.monteiro@mentortec.eu

What?

SPACE (Seniors Perceive A Common Europe) empowers seniors (60+) to actively participate in society and share their cultural heritage. The project connects seniors from Germany, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, and Sweden to exchange traditions and develop a common European identity through digital exhibitions on topics like nutrition, health, and consumer behaviour.

How?

SPACE organises courses where seniors research and present cultural practices from their regions. Seniors then participate in European Exchanges, presenting their findings to their peers, promoting cross-cultural understanding. Digital exhibitions and the SPACE Handbook help adult education providers replicate the project.

Impact

SPACE increases seniors’ digital literacy, promotes social interaction, and strengthens their sense of European citizenship. By sharing regional traditions, seniors learn from one another and actively contribute to a more connected Europe. The project’s methodology is highly transferable.

Facts



Photo: Space project

Name:

SPACE (Seniors Perceive A Common Europe)

Coordinator:

Volkshochschule im Landkreis Cham e.V. (Germany)

Focus:

Promoting European identity and active ageing

Partners:

Business Foundation for Education (Bulgaria), EduVita - Centro di Formazione e Cultura (Italy), Instituto para el fomento del desarrollo y la formación (Spain), Elderberry (Sweden)

Funding:

Erasmus+

Contact:

Johanna Jankowski, jjankowski@vhs-cham.de

Links:

<https://www.vhs-cham.de/laufende-projekte/space>

What?

WINBIZ aims to empower migrant women and women from with medium or high education levels by enhancing their skills and competencies to integrate into the European labour market. The project supports women through targeted education and entrepreneurship initiatives, contributing to their personal and societal well-being.

How?

WINBIZ focuses on four main components: research on social and training needs, an online toolkit for tutors, a modular training course, and a catalogue of business plans. Selected plans are incubated with mentorship from successful female migrant entrepreneurs. The project also includes support for Ukrainian speakers, broadening its impact.

Impact

Migrant women participants are experiencing notable personal and professional development, enhancing their skills and employability for better integration into EU society. Tutors have gained entrepreneurial coaching skills, while partner organisations have improved their ability to deliver tailored training. Strong engagement strategies have led to high participation.

Facts

Name: WINBIZ	Coordinator: European Grants International Academy (Italy)	Focus: Labour market integration for migrant women
Partners: APSU (Portugal), Wisamar (Germany), CES Academy (Republic of North Macedonia), Hellenic Open University (Greece), EaSi (Romania)		Funding: Erasmus+
Links: https://www.winbizproject.eu/		Contact: Bianca Bisiach, biancabisiach@egina.eu



What?

EduSenior aims to enhance senior education in the Tri-City area (Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot), Poland, by improving educational practices and resources for seniors through a transnational collaboration with Norway.

How?

Key activities included the development of the Senior Education Good Practices Catalogue and Senior Education Handbook, which serve as guides for educators. EduSenior organised mobilities to Norway for 12 Polish educators, where they gained insights into the study circle method. This approach was then implemented in five Neighborhood Houses, involving 55 seniors and other stakeholders.

Impact

The project increased participation in non-formal education among seniors and improved the skills of senior educators in Poland. The introduction of study circles fostered active engagement and empowered seniors to contribute to their communities. The project’s resources are transferable, enhancing the quality of senior education in Neighborhood Houses in Poland.

Facts

Name:	Coordinator:	Focus:
EduSenior	NOVA Foundation (Poland)	Enhancing senior education
Partners:		Funding:
Bjerkaker LearningLab (Norway)		Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway EEA Grants
Links:	Contact:	
https://www.novafoundation.eu/edusenor	Joanna Wozniczka-Sulka, wozniczka.asia@gmail.com	



Photo: EduSenior project

Digital Brand of Researchers

What?

The Digital Brand of Researchers project aims to equip researchers with essential digital competencies for effective scientific communication, collaboration, and visibility. By improving skills in using scientific profiles, repositories, and search engines, the project promotes open science and lifelong learning.

How?

The project organises workshops where researchers receive hands-on training in creating and managing scientific profiles, submitting publications, and using digital tools. Online resources such as video tutorials and step-by-step guides support the workshops. Community building is fostered through online forums and networking events, allowing participants to share best practices and receive ongoing support.

Impact

The project will increase digital literacy among researchers, enabling them to better navigate complex digital environments. Participants improve their research visibility by optimising their scientific profiles and embracing open access publishing and data sharing. The project promotes collaboration and knowledge exchange, leading to innovative science outcomes.

Facts

Name: Digital Brand of Researchers	Coordinator: Scientific Center of Innovative Research (Estonia)
Contact: Iryna Mihus, office@scnchub.com	Focus: Enhancing digital competencies for researchers



3.

Local, regional and national initiatives



WINNER:

**Smartfood - Engaging
Citizens in Food Diversity
in Cities**

Photo: Hilla Kurki

SmartFood: Engaging Citizens in Food Diversity in Cities

What?

The SmartFood project brings together interdisciplinary teams of researchers and city dwellers to develop and test innovative solutions to help achieve sustainability goals of enhancing green food consumption, environmental protection and social cohesion in close neighborhoods. It contributes to the reduction of the environmental footprint by presenting a model for self-produced food. The project seeks to reduce environmental impact, food transportation, and waste, while fostering community engagement and healthy eating.

How?

The project involved setting up hydroponic cabinets in common areas of a residential block in Warsaw, allowing residents to grow vegetables, herbs and fruits in corridors of their building. Through a controlled experiment in the SmartFood Urban Living Lab, participants engaged in self-production of food, helping them develop pro-environmental behaviors and gain practical knowledge about urban gardening and self-provisioning.

Impact

The SmartFood project has successfully introduced participants into sustainable food practices and enhanced community bonds. Participants reported increased access to fresh produce, reduced shopping trips, and greater environmental awareness. The opportunity to meet at the hydroponic stands allowed residents to make new friends, improve their quality of life, and share their harvest. The project also provided educational opportunities, with residents learning about hydroponics and sharing knowledge with their families and communities. The interest in replicating the project in schools, hospitals, and restaurants suggests potential for future expansion.

“ The award will increase the visibility of our project and allow us to contribute to the dissemination of innovative ways of greening cities, strengthening food security, and raising awareness among city dwellers about sustainable food consumption and production patterns based on healthy eating habits and social networks. ” - Ewa Duda

Facts

Name: SmartFood	Coordinator: Research and Innovation Centre Pro-Akademia	Focus: Sustainable food production
Partners: BI Norwegian Business School, Cracow University of Technology, Maria Grzegorzewska University, Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Western Norway Research Institute		Contact: Ewa Duda, duda.ewa@wp.pl
Funding: Norway Grants 2014-2021 and the state budget of Poland via the National Centre for Research and Development, Poland		Links: https://smartfood.city/
		Country: Poland



Honourable mention

What?

The Men2Men project was a comprehensive initiative designed to engage Russian-speaking adults 35+ (men) in lifelong learning in Estonia. The project addressed challenges faced by this group, such as health issues, low qualifications, and limited social interaction, through a holistic approach that includes diverse learning activities.

How?

The initiative began with a team-building hike, followed by a universal skills course on critical thinking and stress management. Participants chose from six specialised courses, including cooking and mental health, and took a study trip to educational institutions. The program concluded with reflective interviews and a final celebration with families, fostering community and recognising achievements.

Impact

The participants became more aware of their role in the community and the need to take care of themselves and the others. They clearly demonstrated the great potential to learn and contribute to the society, if supported respectfully and in a person-centred way, while taking their interests into account.

Facts

Name: Men2Men	Coordinator: Vestifex Adult Learning Centre (Vestifex OÜ)	Focus: Lifelong learning and personal development
Contact: Jelena Lohmatova, jelena.lohmatova@gmail.com		Funding: British Council in Estonia
Country: Estonia		



Photo: Jelena Burkova

Me, You, We... Together is Better

What?

The “Me, You, We... Together is Better” project addresses rising mental health challenges, particularly among women, caused by insecurity, war, and the pandemic. It offers psychological support, social activities, and health education to combat isolation and anxiety. The main focus is on improving self-esteem, mental well-being, and social integration through group workshops, nature-based activities, and counselling.

How?

The project uses non-formal education methods, placing learners at the centre. Activities include three focus topics: 1) Group workshops that promote positive thinking, optimism, self-esteem, and socialisation. 2) Self-help group for individual psychological support for those in severe distress. 3) Nature walks and educational sessions on the characteristics of a healthy environment.

Impact

The project has significantly improved participants’ mental health, self-confidence, and social engagement. It has fostered new friendships, reduced social isolation, and sparked an interest in further learning. Feedback from satisfaction surveys and professional assessments shows positive changes in participants’ lives, and the initiative has seen increasing demand due to its success.

Facts

Name: Me, You, We... Together is Better	Coordinator: APS Brainery Academy	Focus: Mental health and personal development
Contact: Mariella Ciani, mariellaciani55@gmail.com		Funding: FVG region
Links: https://www.facebook.com/braineryacademy/		Country: Italy



3.4

Digital Skills for All

What?	The Digital Skills for All project aimed to close the digital skills gap in Austria by offering free workshops for adults with limited digital proficiency. Targeting senior citizens, individuals with low education, and rural residents, the project focused on e-government, safe digital media usage, and digital education.
How?	Workshops were tailored to meet specific needs, emphasising accessibility and practical learning. Educational providers from across Austria delivered sessions that fostered confidence, peer support, and ongoing engagement with digital tools. In 2023, 560 workshops were held, involving over 4,500 adult learners all across Austria.
Impact	The initiative activated and strengthened adult education networks and achieved its objectives through targeted workshops, emphasising accessibility and nationwide distribution. High satisfaction and strong demand for workshops were proof of the project’s success. The work started by the project has continued in a follow-up initiative Digital Überall.

Facts



Photo: Digital skills for all project

Name:	Coordinator:	Focus:
Digital Skills for All	OeAD - Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation	Digital skills and inclusion
Contact:	Country:	
Caroline Pajancic, caroline.pajancic@oead.at	Austria	
Links:		
https://www.digitalekompetenzen.gv.at/DigitalUeberall.html		

What?

The Citizenship ABC project aimed to promote civic engagement and education across Estonia by forming study circles. These circles encouraged adults to learn about their rights and responsibilities and discuss societal issues. The initiative aimed to strengthen local communities by fostering dialogue and empowering participants.

How?

The circles were led by people trained to use the study circle method, facilitating open discussions in 15 local groups. Topics included civic duties, sustainable development, and how to influence decision-making at both local and national levels. Invited experts such as public officials and politicians enlivened the conversations.

Impact

The project reached 233 participants and resulted in several community-driven initiatives, such as contributions to local development plans. In several places the circles got the attention of the local media. Some circles succeeded in influencing local policies, and secured funding for community needs. Participants reported increased confidence in their ability to engage in local governance.

Facts

Name:	Coordinator:	Focus:
Citizenship ABC	The Association of Estonian Folk High Schools	Active citizenship
Contact:		Funding:
Heleriin Jõesalu, heleriin.joesalu@gmail.com		Active Citizens Fund
Links:	Country:	
https://rahvaulikoolideliit.ee/projektid/acf/	Estonia	



Photo: Siiri Liiva

3.6

ArteMIA

What?

ArteMIA (L’Arte come Mezzo per l’Inclusione e l’Accessibilità) makes cultural heritage accessible to people with cognitive disabilities through art therapy workshops and digital tools. It is a journey of discovery and accessibility to cultural heritage, focusing on the artworks housed within several museums in the Umbria Region (Italy).

How?

ArteMIA involves participants in hands-on art therapy workshops, digital reprocessing of artworks, and co-creating a visitor’s path. It also includes the collaborative creation of accessible Easy-to-Read and Photographic guides, as well as developing virtual museum environments.

Impact

ArteMIA empowered participants, increasing engagement with cultural heritage and societal involvement. The accessible guides have been well-received by museum visitors, and the project’s success has led to plans for expansion, including collaborations with other museums.

Facts



Photo: Jonatas Fraolini

<div>Name:</div> <div>ArteMIA</div>	<div>Coordinator:</div> <div>CRHACK LAB FOLIGNO 4D</div>	<div>Focus:</div> <div>Accessibility and inclusion</div>
<div>Contact:</div> <div>Giorgia Marchionni, giorgia @crowddreaminganew.world</div>		<div>Funding:</div> <div>Umbria Region and Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Foligno</div>
<div>Links:</div> <div>https://clf4d.eu/en/tools/artemia/</div>		<div>Country:</div> <div>Italy</div>

ESF Projekt Care & Fast Care of Folkbildningen

What?

The ESF Projekt Care & Fast Care of Folkbildningen focuses on supporting the integration of war-displaced individuals, mainly from Ukraine, into Swedish society. Launched in January 2023, the initiative provides social, language, health, and parenting support.

How?

The initiative is led by a diverse group of educators from various age groups and migrant backgrounds. They deliver tailored Swedish language classes and health resources. Additionally, they provide opportunities for participants to attend events, take part in excursions, and network with peers. This diversity among teachers has helped participants find someone to identify with, and has provided an insight into the demographics of Swedish society.

Impact

The initiative has positively impacted over 90 adults, enhancing their language skills, health knowledge, and sense of community. Many participants have successfully gained employment and pursued further education. Through collaborative efforts and tailoring to meet individual needs, the project has facilitated long-term integration.

Facts



Photo: ESF Care project

Name: ESF Projekt Care & Fast Care of Folkbildningen	Coordinator: Sundbybergs Folkhögskola	Focus: Integration of migrants
Contact: Marc Harding, marc.harding@sundbyberg.fhsk.se		Funding: European Social Fund (ESF)
Links: https://sundbybergsfolkhogskola.se/		Country: Sweden

What?

The Blue Zone Project FHSK aims to improve the quality of life in local communities of Nyköping. The project is based on the teachings of blue zones - regions known for longevity and fulfilment. The project centres on fostering social cohesion, encouraging healthier lifestyles, and creating a sense of purpose for individuals. The project also collaborates with Eastern Kentucky University, inspired by research on Blue Zones.

How?

Led by seven students and a teacher, the project organises various groups to promote social interaction and personal well-being. These groups meet regularly to engage in activities pertaining to furthering social coalition between people who wouldn't normally socialize. These include for instance a cooking group, a book club, a cultivating group.

Impact

So far the project has strengthened community bonds, helping participants feel more engaged. There has been 27 active teaching hours for the cooking group, 35h for the cultivating group, 50h for the book circle, as well as 72h for the "general group". The project plans to expand, hosting larger social events and work more closely with international partners.

Facts

Name: Blue Zone Project FHSK	Coordinator: Nyköpings Folkhögskola	Focus: Longevity, well-being, and community
Contact: Petter Björnskar, bluezone@nykoping.fhsk.se		Funding: Sörmlands Sparbank
Links: https://www.nykoping.fhsk.se/blue-zone-project		Country: Sweden



Photo: Amanda Bergstad

3.9

Lisbon City of Learning

What?

Lisbon City of Learning is a collaborative initiative led by Lisbon City Council. It aims to create a city where everyone has access to diverse learning opportunities, fostering personal and professional growth. Over 110 educational, cultural, and public organisations are involved, supporting lifelong learning through digital platforms and emerging technologies.

How?

The initiative uses tools such as Open Badges, Learning Playlists, and personalised portfolios. It is expanding citizens' access to hundreds of meaningful, transformative and empowering learning experiences. The focus is on breaking down barriers to education, promoting inclusivity, and encouraging learners to pursue their passions in flexible and adaptable ways.

Impact

In less than a year, the initiative has already impacted thousands of learners and organisations across Lisbon. It is cultivating a collaborative ecosystem focused on diversity, promoting access and opportunity, embracing innovation, empowering individual agency, co-creating tailored learning playlists, and providing leadership guided by public interest.

Facts

Name:	Coordinator:	Focus:
Lisbon City of Learning	Lisbon City Council	Lifelong learning
Contact:		Funding:
Luísa Dornellas, luisa.dornellas@lisbonlearning.pt		European Social Fund, Lisbon City Council
Country:		
Portugal		



3.10

Hold on

What?

Hold On! - Adults’ learning regarding Social, Ecological and Economic Sustainability In Preschools is a participatory project aimed at promoting sustainable leadership and lifelong learning among preschool teachers in Sweden. The initiative focuses on developing adult learning processes in ecological, social, and economic sustainability, aligning with the goals set out in Sweden’s national preschool curriculum (Lpfo18).

How?

The project uses a practice-based approach with the RARA (Reflection-Action-Reflection-Action) model. It fosters participatory, collaborative learning, highlighting professional dialogues and negotiations to connect sustainability principles to everyday preschool activities. Knowledge exchange between teachers, local stakeholders, and higher education is a central aspect, with a strong emphasis on reciprocity and networking.

Impact

The project has fostered a strong professional ethos, empowering teachers as agents of change, and creating measurable improvements in sustainability across preschools. The project’s success has inspired plans for upscaling and broader community engagement.

Facts

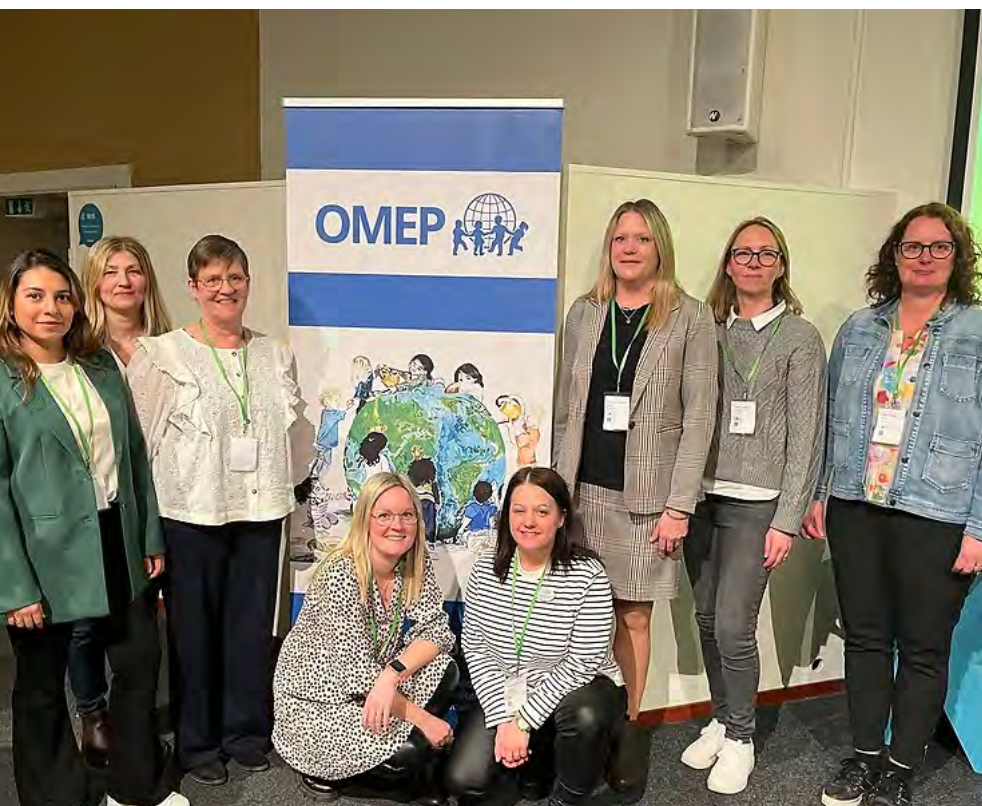


Photo: Eva Hansson

Name: Hold On! - Adults’ Learning Regarding Social, Ecological, and Economic Sustainability in Preschools	Coordinator: Värnamo Kommun, Enehagens Förskoleområde	Focus: Education for sustainable development
Contact: Dr. Claudia Gillberg, claudia.gillberg @edu.varnamo.se		Funding: Värnamo Municipality
Country: Sweden		

What?

Learn with NALA is an online learning platform developed by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) in Ireland. It empowers adult learners to become agents of change in their own lives by providing them with essential literacy, numeracy and digital literacy skills, targeting those who are most in need of support.

How?

The platform offers free courses designed around adult learners’ needs, providing personalised and accessible learning pathways. Learners can pursue courses leading to nationally recognised qualifications and digital badges. Learn with NALA also increases participation by removing barriers like time constraints, low confidence, or lack of access to education.

Impact

Since launching in 2020, Learn with NALA has helped thousands of learners across Ireland to enhance their skills. A recent research project revealed that the platform not only boosts literacy and numeracy but also increases learners’ confidence and motivation. Its flexible approach has been particularly beneficial for vulnerable groups and rural communities.

Facts

Name: Learn with NALA	Coordinator: National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)	Focus: Literacy, numeracy, and digital skills
Contact: Elaine Cohalan, ecohalan@nala.ie		Country: Ireland
Links: https://www.learnwithnala.ie/		



You Have a Second Chance

What?

“You Have a Second Chance” is a project led by Odyssea A.M.K.E. in collaboration with KETHEA EN DRASI, co-funded by Next Fab Foundation and John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation that provides vocational training and psychotherapeutic support to marginalised individuals, such as returning citizens and former drug users. The project provides participants with skills and resources for personal growth and employment opportunities, helping them re-enter society.

How?

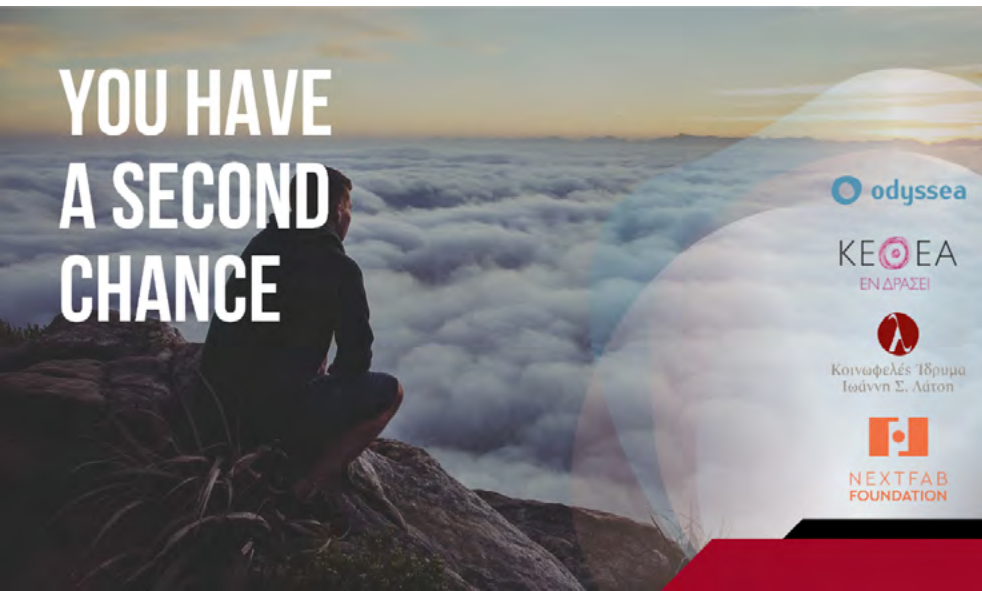
The project offers vocational training in areas such as cooking, woodworking, handmade jewellery, and digital skills, both inside and outside detention centres. It also provides therapeutic support, training in soft skills, and job search assistance. The programme is divided into three phases: empowerment within detention centres, social integration through training, and post-treatment supervision.

Impact

The programme has helped to substantially reduce the rate of return of individuals to prisons. It can serve as a model for other adult education providers seeking to address the complex needs of marginalised populations. The initiative has helped over 425 participants. Participants’ testimonials report increased confidence and personal growth.

Facts

Name: You Have a Second Chance	Coordinator: Odyssea A.M.K.E. & KETHEA EN DRASI	Focus: Inclusion of marginalised groups
Contact: Nikolaos Jai Mexis, jai.mexis@odyssea.com		Funding: Co-funded by Next Fab Foundation and John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation
Links: https://odyssea.com/en/you-have-a-second-chance/		Country: Greece



Whidden Workshops - It's Kushti to Rokker

What?

The Whidden Workshops – It’s Kushti to Rokker initiative aims to enhance access to higher education for Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland. Collaborating with six Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Traveller and Roma organisations, the project provides guidance and support to empower prospective learners.

How?

The initiative features workshops co-created and led by Traveller and Roma students, offering a unique peer-led learning experience through webinars and in-person sessions. These workshops provide a space for discussions on cultural identity, navigating the education system, and building resilience.

Impact

Over 300 participants have engaged with the workshops. The initiative has increased higher education enrolment among Traveller and Roma communities and improved participants’ academic performance. It has also led to institutional changes, such as the appointment of Traveller and Roma Education Officers and the adoption of more inclusive practices in HEIs.

Facts



Photo: Whidden Workshops

Name:

Whidden Workshops -
It's Kushti to Rokker

Coordinator:

Maynooth University, Dublin City University,
Dundalk Institute of Technology, Technological
University of the Shannon Midlands and
Midwest, Munster Technological University

Funding:

Participating HEIs and the Irish Government
through the Programme to Access Higher
Education (PATH 3).

Contact:

Martha Brandes,
martha.brandes@mu.ie

Links:

<https://www.collegeconnect.ie>

Focus:

Access to education

Country:

Ireland

3.14

(The short life of)
Ruth Maier

What?

“(The short life of) Ruth Maier - Exhibition in Plain Language & Workshops” makes Holocaust education accessible to adult learners, especially those with limited formal education and refugee or migrant backgrounds. Through an low-threshold approach, it connects historical events to participants’ lived experiences. By translating content into Plain Language, it ensures inclusivity for all learners.

How?

The exhibition and workshops are designed in a participatory process, involving learners in the creation and development. The exhibition combines educational content with workshops that foster active participation and personal connection to the topic. Collaboration with the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW) and adult education centre s(VHS) enhances its impact.

Impact

The project has reached thousands of people in Vienna and is now expanding across Austria. By lowering educational barriers and addressing complex themes in accessible ways, it fosters a deeper understanding of human rights, migration, and democracy.

Facts



Photo: Barbara Brunmair

Name: (The short life of) Ruth Maier – Exhibition in Plain Language & Workshops	Coordinator: Verband Österreichischer Volkshochschulen (VÖV)	Focus: Holocaust education, inclusivity, and migration
Contact: Barbara Brunmair, barbara.brunmair@vhs.or.at		Funding: Local and national institutions
Links: https://www.vhs.or.at/themen/demokratie-und-wissenschaftsbildung/das-kurze-leben-der-ruth-maier		Country: Austria

EAEA is the voice of non-formal adult education in Europe. It is a European NGO with 120 member organisations in 43 countries and represents more than 60 million learners Europe-wide.

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