ICT4Elders

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Promoting ICT knowledge

for the elderly people

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ICT4Elders NEWSLETTER – June 2021

ICT4Elders – introduction of the project

ICT4Elders is a two-year project implemented with the financial support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project aims to establish a strong partnership on European level in order to bridge the digital divide between generations by enhancing the digital skills and competencies of older adults.

Main objectives

- To promote ICT education and lifelong learning of older adults
- To strengthen older adults' motivation through guided learning in the use of the internet and ICT applications
- To offer older adults the opportunity for growth and for a better quality of life through active ageing and by being dynamic members of the society
- To enhance the skills, knowledge, and competences of elder care givers
- To support Active Ageing Organizations and Nursing Homes in providing older adults and their families services of high quality

Activities

- IO1: Behavioral analysis on the negative effects of Information Technology illiteracy on elderly people
- IO2: Design of social inclusion training curriculum for the elderly people
- IO3: Delivery of learning to elder caregivers
- IO4: Guidance to elder on the use of ICT
- IO5: Engagement of nursing homes for the integration of ICT4Elders in their premises
- Transnational meetings & three Multiplier events

Target groups

- Elder care givers & companions
- VET Trainers
- Older adults, especially those over 70years old
- Families
- Active Ageing Organizations
- Nursing Homes
- NGOs on social inclusion

ICT4Elders project activities – the new Logo and project Website launched!

We are happy to announce that the design of the project **logo** and the Logo usage manual were finalized in Feb 2021. The logo represents the connection between people and organizations, as well as the variety of services and number of people in need. Older persons are entering the ICT world and their life is connected to the 21st century!

We also launched our new **website** in March, which is now fully operational. The content follows the tasks of the project and is available here: https://www.ict4elders.eu/.

The website is designed to inform stakeholders and the wider public about the project activities and is also linked to the social media content of the project using a social media content loader on the project website. In response to the needs of our stakeholders and followers, a dedicated hashtag, **#ICT4Elders,** to be used in all relevant posts was designed instead of dedicated accounts on social media platforms.

You can find all information about the project within sections the „Home", „Project", „ICT Education", „Publications" and „Contact". The main body of the page is focused on activities that are currently performed by the project, such as meetings, research, and other dissemination and communication activities. The very right side is dedicated to a hashtag loader that shows the social media content marked by our hashtag #ICT4Elders.

Vojtěch Měřička & Karel Vostrý, *European Ageing Network*

Visit ICT4Elders webpage

Keep up with the ICT4Elders project activities in Greece!

During the past three months, the Greek partners of the ICT4Elders project (AKMI S.A and Symplexis) have been closely collaborating for the implementation of the project's first Intellectual Output activities in Greece.

At this stage of the project, actions evolve around a set of research activities in order to create Greece's first National Report on the Behavioral Analysis on the negative effects of Information Technology illiteracy on Elderly People.

At a preparatory phase, Symplexis established the necessary set of research tools (methodological framework, questionnaires, interview guide, and consent forms) in order to ensure a solid research methodology for the implementation of activities. The documents were fine-tuned and translated by the two partners into the Greek language to facilitate their use in activities with the target groups - notably elders, family members and health care professionals.

A survey aiming at clarifying the educational needs of health care professionals and family members of elderly people to support their use of digital technologies was conducted though a questionnaire, forwarded by all partners to target groups through their professional and personal networks. At the same time, AKMI S.A in collaboration with AKMI Metropolitan College has conducted a comprehensive desk research examining the use of ICT technologies by elderly people in Greece. The participation of the Metropolitan College in project activities has been a valuable contribution, as their expert staff working in elderly care units, with the support of students, were able to successfully conduct a total 10 of interviews with elderly people in care facilities. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, half of the interviews were held in presence and half of them online with the support of digital means. At the end of each interview, a social experiment was conducted where both real and fake news, where presented to elderly people, opening up a very interesting discussion around their ability to distinguish real from fake news in a context of increasing online information.

The findings and conclusions drawn from the aforementioned activities are currently being analyzed and summarized in Greece's National Report that will be published soon. Stay tuned with the ICT4Elders communication channels to learn more!

Evie Lazaridou, AKMI

First project phase in practice - the Czech Republic

In the nursing home SeneCura SeniorCentrum Klamovka we support individuals with average age of 89 years old. Even at this age we can see many clients who are interest in ICT technologies. We had been working very closely with Život+, our partner in the ICT4Elders project, to prepare and complete all analytical activities, which took place during the first intellectual output of the project.

We presented the ICT4Elders project to all clients and all questions were answered. The clients were eager to find out more about ICT technologies and learn new things. We were surprised with how many clients were interested and curious.

The ICT4Elders project was also introduced to the employees of SeneCura and Život+ during a meeting. We offered them the opportunity to join the project by filling up a questionnaire. Overall 20 copies of questionnaire were distributed to nurses, social workers, activity workers, caregivers and physiotherapists. The questionnaires for family members were distributed to them with support of activity workers. The aim of survey was to get deeper insight on issues that older adults face in using digital technologies. We wanted to find out what the needs of older adults are and what type of knowledge and skills are necessary to develop. The survey supplemented the information received during the interviews that were performed with the participation of older adults. We interviewed 16 participants about their experiences and the needs they have when using digital technologies.

The next part of the project was a social experiment with elderly, when elderly were asked to recognize if news articles presented were real or not. We discussed the articles with 12 of our clients, divided into two groups. A very important point was how they deal with the verification of information. The elders were very open minded and happy to share with us their opinions on digital technologies. In both groups, all our clients were eager to learn more about ICT technologies, and wanted to find out more on how to use the Internet, browsers, and other platforms like Skype or Facebook. In addition, they wanted to learn how to remove online advertisements, which can be quite confusing for them.

Simona Matějková, APSS ČR
Petra Pipková, SeneCura SeniorCentrum Klamovka
Zdeněk Vyhnis, Život+

Analytical activities from the Czech Republic in nutshell

The field of science, technology and innovation is one of the key elements and the use of ICT technologies leads to an increase in the quality of life of the whole society. However, we can still meet groups of people who are at risk of digital illiteracy, including also older adults. The notion that older adults are not able to use digital technologies is no longer true. Digital literacy of elderly is continuously growing, but they can still be at risk of social exclusion. The main reason for social exclusion is not only the unfamiliarity with technology and lack of (digital) skills, but also, for example, the content on the Internet, which is not intended for their age group.

The number of older adults, who own computers, smart phones or tablets and use the Internet is still growing. But the technological barrier is still the main reason why older adults don't use digital technologies and the Internet. The main obstacle in improving their ICT skills is technology development, which is quite fast and they often have difficulties adapting to new environment and functions of software and applications. Also, they very often lack awareness with regard to the purposes for which they can use ICT technologies, for what reason or what activities they can use them for, so, they are not able to take advantage of what ICT technologies can offer.

Older adults most often use ICT technologies for communication, especially via e-mail or applications such as WhatsApp or Skype. Through these applications they can stay in touch with their families and close relatives, and thus, the popularity of these communication techniques are still growing. For many older adults digital technologies are very important and they are cannot imagine their lives without them, because they use them to stay in touch with their love ones, especially in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The use of ICT technologies, even just for communication, is connected with safety. Older adults are well aware that their online credentials (username and password) can be stolen, and they treat with them confidentiality. On the other hand, for example, they are not able to configure or modify the firewall and security settings of their digital devices. Generally, we can say, that older adults have basic awareness about online safety but they are not able to apply this knowledge in practice, beyond comparing various sources and verifying the reliability of information.

More findings and conclusions from the analytical activities of ICT4Elders project will be summarized in Czech's National report, which will be soon published on our website!

Simona Matějková, APSS ČR

Lead partner

Association of Social Services Providers
Czech Republic

Partners

Život+

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symplexis

Contact

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For more information visit https://www.ict4elders.eu/.