

Workshop

An ageing Europe and the role of University Lifelong Learning

Thursday 10 May 2012

1st slot: 14.30 – 16.00 | 2nd slot: 16.15 – 17.15

Chair: Prof. Dr. Bernhard SCHMIDT-HERTHA, University of Tübingen

Europe is facing a historic achievement – our population is ageing significantly, people are living longer and staying healthier, thus creating a period in their lives (usually after retirement) which is longer than childhood and adolescence together. This development has an impact on our labour markets due to a shrinking workforce (in spite of immigration). It is challenging for our welfare systems but it is also opening up new opportunities for the contribution of older people to our economic prosperity and to the further development of our civil societies in general through their increased civic engagement.

Focus of the workshop:

Ageing workforce

- How can ULLL successfully contribute to tackling the problem of early retirement (provision of better access to ULLL and/or specific ULLL programmes; development of new roles for older employees such as mentors for the younger workforce so that older people can stay longer in employment)?
- How can ULLL successfully collaborate with human resources departments in business and industry, NGOs and the public sector to keep an ageing workforce up-to-date?

New roles in later life: Second careers – civic engagement – intergenerational dialogue

- Lifelong learning is one element of Active Ageing and a key to combatting poverty (better and longer employment) and isolation (active participation in society e.g. through volunteering). How can ULLL help older people to develop new roles in later life after their “first career(s)”, e.g. starting own business/self-employment, for volunteering or other forms of civic engagement, thus contributing successfully to social inclusion?
- What approaches exist to Learning in Later Life and intergenerational learning in a Higher Education context? What institutional framework and pedagogical concepts have proved successful? How can older learners be empowered via ULLL to take charge of their learning process and thus contribute to research (e.g. to become trainers or researchers themselves)?
- What additional services are needed (guidance and counselling, better access by using the new media) to attract older learners to ULLL and to support their learning process?

Presentations

1st slot: 14.30 – 16.00

Managing ages in the firm: transferring competences between generations at work

by Prof. Jean-Marie Dujardin, Professor at HEC-Management School of the University of Liège and Academic Coordinator for lifelong learning programmes at the University of Liège

Engaging older learners in self-development: the wider benefits of learning

by Lesley Hart, MBE, Patron of the Learning in Later Life Students' Association and Dr. Rob Mark, Head of Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

First part: Labour market related learning opportunities

Second part: New roles in later life: Second careers – civic engagement – intergenerational dialogue

2nd slot: 16.15 – 17.15

Over-fifty returning adult learners: another neglected species?

by Dr. Renaud Maes, Cécile Sztalberg & Michel Sylin, Service de Formation continue & Unité de Psychologie des Organisations, Université libre de Bruxelles