If we want society to benefit more from the experience and skills of the new generations of seniors, we need to develop new voluntary roles. It is equally important that senior citizens are trained on how to become involved in those new roles.
About LACE

The LACE project aims to increase the active engagement of Europe’s ageing population.

After retirement, many older citizens want to stay active in society and use their knowledge and experience to help others. Moreover, our society needs the input of volunteers.

The new generation of older citizens can provide valuable volunteers. They are more active and socially engaged than previous generations and with their experience, knowledge and time provide a valuable resource for voluntary organisations. However, the voluntary sector needs to meet the needs of this age group. Personal development and individual choices are important for today’s older citizens. They want to take an active part in changes in society.

If we want to benefit from the experience and skills of the new generations of seniors, we need to develop new voluntary roles. And senior citizens have to be trained on how to become involved in those new roles.

Activities

Between October 2005 and October 2007, LACE studies three existing models aiming at active citizenship and lifelong learning of older citizens. The experiences with these programmes will be used as new pilot projects are developed in Italy, Spain, Slovenia and Ireland. Through this process, it will be possible to provide guidelines for the establishment of new educational programmes throughout Europe, that aim at volunteer involvement of older citizens.

Become involved

We are looking for partners at national level. Are you a volunteer organisation, an educational institute, NGO, private fund or business and do you want to contribute to the increase of the active engagement of older citizens as volunteers? Contact the LACE project partner in your country to discuss how you can contribute to their activities. See contact details on the back.
Existing models

In the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, the following models exist to increase seniors activities in society after retirement.

**The Netherlands: SESAM Academy**
Supports socially engaged organisations in their process of quality improvement by getting them in touch with highly motivated volunteers with experience in the corporate sector. Retired corporate managers receive training for a new voluntary career as advisor or coach for non profit organisations.

www.sesamacademie.nl

**Germany: Erfahrungswissen Für Initiatieve (EFI)**
National model program established by the German Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth. Tested the establishment of the new voluntary role of “Senior Trainer” in 35 local communities throughout Germany between 2002 and 2006, with the support of Senior Bureaus, volunteer agencies and self help contact groups.

www.efi-programm.de

**Belgium: Training for Senior Citizens’ Consultants**
Training based on recognizing and exploiting the skills and abilities of senior citizens. The training actively contributes to the ability of older citizens to live their life according to their own wishes as long as possible.

www.hig.be/instituut/english.htm#senior

Pilot Projects

Between September 2006 and September 2007, pilot projects will be set up in Italy, Spain, Slovenia and Ireland. Educational programmes for older citizens aimed at their active voluntary participation in society. The LACE partner organisations in these countries have studied the extent to which older citizens are involved in voluntary work and have subsequently developed educational programmes to provide volunteers with a solid basis to fulfil their new role.

Please contact us for more information:
www.lace-project.net
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