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MOBI-DIG: Mobile Apps and Digital Services for Seniors

2023-2-ES01-KA210-ADU-000181337

DIGITOL: Digital Inclusion for Older People - Intergenerational synergies for the active participation in society

PROMOTER OF THE INITIATIVE: Consorzio Comunità Brianza (IT) – coordinator; Znanie Association – Bulgarian partner / Italy, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece / <https://znanie-bg.org/>

TARGET GROUPS: Young people as trainers (18-30 y.o.); Elderly people as learners (55-70 y.o.)

YEAR(S) OF IMPLEMENTATION: 2020-2022

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the DIGITOL project is to contribute to the promotion of EU common values among older citizens by delivering innovative digital literacy training with younger trainers and older learners and employing innovative intergenerational educational practices and training opportunities to combat the effect and the spread of fake-news. The project contributes to combating forms of discrimination within the EU that are driven by xenophobia, populism, and homophobia, by increasing the digital skills and critical thinking of older adults and training them for the identification and evaluation of fake news, with the goal to filter them out and not spread them further.

The DIGITOL project uses an innovative, dual (i.e. online and offline), non-formal educational method to promote knowledge transfer between younger and older adults. The intergenerational approach aimed to close the gaps between these two groups and to find new ways to cooperate and interact with each other. In the project framework, young people are “intergenerational social mediators”, namely professional figures capable of activating empowerment programmes for senior men and women in an intergenerational and intersectional perspective, thus taking into account the gender, social capital and cultural differences of the individual.

For achieving its objectives, DIGITOL developed the DIGITOL Online Academy, a Training of trainers programme for young trainers and a Capacity building programme for older learners.

More information on the project can be found here: <https://digitol.eu/resources/>

OUTCOMES:

DIGITOL managed to create an intergenerational environment capable of benefiting from the contribution of different age groups for building a more inclusive society. In the achieving this, the project delivered:

Training of Trainers (ToT) programme:

A 30-hours ToT programme aimed at building capacities of a group of young people (The Young Ambassadors) willing to improve their digital skills in identifying and managing fake-news, as well as increasing awareness of the European common values. The programme deals with issues like media and misinformation, racism and discrimination, hate speech, human rights, media literacy; etc. It also focuses on intergenerational work, approaches for working with elderly people according to age group (55-65, 65-75, etc.), age discrimination, good practices in adult education (55+), information on training needs and the needs of elderly people, different methodologies and methods for engaging and training older adults, etc.



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Following the TOT Programme, the Young Ambassadors were prepared to co-design and run a Capacity Building Programme targeting older adults, following an intergenerational approach.

More information on the ToT programme is available here:

<https://digitol-academy.eu/>

<https://digitol.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/handbook-eng.pdf>

<https://digitol.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/toolkit-eng-DEF.pdf>

Capacity Building programme

A 60-hour capacity building programme to gain theoretical and practical knowledge of the digital world and find solutions with young people to fight fake news. The participants in the capacity building programme were able to increase their digital and media skills and to deepen their knowledge on issues such as the importance of access to reliable and correct information, combating stereotypes and hate speech, promoting human rights and acceptance of diversity.

The capacity building programme was given by motivated and skilful “young ambassadors” who were trained to work with older people within the ToT.

Overview of the capacity building programmes in the partner countries can be found here:

<https://digitol.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/handbook-eng.pdf>

Pilot actions

Following the capacity building events, DIGITOL designed and implemented Pilot Actions in the partner countries, addressing concepts such as the importance of digital skills and the relevance of active engagement and participation for enhancing social cohesion of communities and cities.

The idea of the pilot actions was to provide the target groups with concrete opportunities to take into practice what they have learned during the programme in an intergenerational environment, and therefore to enhance their “visibility” and “participation” in society. The pilots were co-designed and delivered by the seniors together with the Young ambassadors, and it was their turn for proactive participation.

DIGITOL Online Academy

The DIGITOL Online Academy is a learning online environment for young ambassadors, older adults, trainers and experts involved in the training and educational activities of the project, as well as a publicly-accessible repository space for information, data, resources and knowledge on topics related misinformation, diffusion of fake news, critical thinking and media literacy.

The DIGITOL academy is available here:

<https://digitol-academy.eu/>

EFFECTIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING DIGITAL COMPETENCES OF ELDERLY PEOPLE:

- Training programme
- Intergenerational learning methodology
- Confidence-building methodology

WEBSITE OR OTHER ONLINE CHANNELS:

<https://digitol.eu/>