



Recommendations for Europe - Results of the forums

Forum 6: “Life long learning & leisure time“

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Moderator: Baha Güngör, Deutsche Welle

Introduction: “BME Elders: Lifelong Learning and Leisure Time“

Mr Wesley Grant, Leeds Older People’s Forum

“Milan Presentation on Minority Ethnic and Migrant Elders across Europe”

Ms Neena Agarwal, Milan Senior Welfare Organisation

“Intercultural Gardens - Urban Places for Subsistence Production and Diversity“

Dr Christa Müller, Stiftung Interkultur (Foundation Interculture)

“Migrant elders in the Netherlands: working from an intercultural and intergenerational perspective”

Ms Nancy Jouwe, Kosmopolis Utrecht



What were the topics presented?

- “Learn to live a long life” for Migrants in Edinburgh, UK
- Memories help building bridges between generations in Utrecht, NL
- Gardening is a starting point for an exchange of tradition and culture in Munich, Germany

What key points were made in the presentations?

- Solving day to day challenges combined with LLL, Leisure and Culture
- “Learning” in a broad sense, more than imitating school
- Culture, tradition and common memories are key elements to create community

Are there any key trends/developments that can be deduced from practical examples?

- Integrative activities are better than isolated/specialised strategies
- Elder migrant men have stronger problems to engage in communication
- Combination of intercultural and intergenerational approach is crucial for the successful of activities and projects



What are the key features and if applicable country-specific differences?

- The historic background of migrants varies in the different European countries
- Political strategies differ and depend on actual facts (NL)
- Sustained funding strongly depends on political mainstreams

What are the principal obstacles encountered in practice?

- Many prejudices in the memory of the society persist about motivation and education of migrants
- Discrimination as a personal experience of migrants is a hindrance to engage in local activities
- The fear to fail learning new things leads to a motivational problem

What are the principal support factors encountered in practice?

- The Combination and inclusion of all aspects of life strongly helps to create effective programs
- Arts and Culture are strong means to enhance motivation and self-esteem of elder migrants
- Volunteer Organisations need the support from local structures



What overarching, practical recommendations can be derived from the presentations and the forum discussions?

- Find an integrative, holistic approach that addresses daily challenges, learning issues and matters of leisure time at the same time
- Gender is a matter: Elder male migrants need special support to be included into social activities and programs as well as for their health and care!
- A combination of intergenerational and intercultural approaches is a key to success
- All offers need to have an easy and nearby access for the elderly migrants



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