



First transnational newssheet of European project SMARTE (Strengths for Mastering Ageing by Realising Tools in Europe)

Age shouldn't determine the rate of activation. Although older people seems to be less active on the labour-market, they're still capable of giving meaning to society and their own life. Besides for example voluntary work older people have lots of competencies for nowadays society, like supporting youngsters, organising activities in their surroundings, being member of an advisory board or becoming a mediator for employees. The Year 2012 will be the European year of "Active Ageing". Before, during and after this period Europe stimulates the increase of participation of the growing number of European older people in society and encourage healthy ageing. According to the Alliance for Health & The Future the growing number of older people will be up to more than 35% in 2050. Research of the BAS-studies (Belgian Ageing Studies) of Verté et al. (2011) shows that still a significant share of the older people have a meaningful social network, are active in informal care, do voluntary-work and are involved in activities concerning culture.

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Thus older people can be active and meaningful for our society. The Chair of "Active of Ageing" develops different research- and innovation-projects to support the philosophy and possibilities of "Active Ageing". For example their first European project SMARTE, which develops innovative learning-areas for older people in 5 countries based on a Senior Learning Model and combined in a European Tool-kit of "Active Ageing".

SMARTE Mission statement

Development of new learning areas in order to meet needs and create chances for building bridges as a gap between phases of life within the older people and between young and older people by:

- Using and keeping the human resources of older people alive for society
- Valorisation of the different phases of life (like for example as an individual care taker)

SMARTE will show the benefits of more social inclusion facing the fact that:

- Loss of social inclusion is expensive (on an economical and social way)
- Demographical change and need for more qualified workers is needed to preserve the quality
- Costs for society can be lower by preventing in social exclusion
- Health benefits can be gained (in an economical and social way)
- Valuable meaning making knowledge and experience have to be nourished (like for example alternatives for health care)

In order to reach this SMARTE will produce:

- Scientific research concerning needs of older people in co-operation with the Belgian Ageing
 Studies (BAS) and the Leerstoel Active Ageing
- Scientific research concerning success-factors of learning for older people in co-operation with the consortium of EDAM (Education Against Marginalisation)
- Senior Learning Model
- Tool-kit Active Ageing
- Innovative Senior Learning areas in Belgium, Italy, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands
- Exploitation-events concerning Active Ageing in Belgium, Italy, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands

These results will be produced by the consortium of 6 partners and 5 countries, to be mentioned:

- 1. Artéduc (NL): www.arteduc.nl
- 2. Vughterstede (NL): www.vughterstede.nl
- 3. Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BE): www.vub.ac.be
- 4. CVO Antwerpen (BE): www.cvoantwerpen.be/
- 5. Belgian Ageing Studies (BE): www.belgianageingstudies.be
- 6. Università degli Studi del Molise (IT): www.unimol.it
- 7. BFI Tirol (AT): www.bfi-tirol.at
- 8. BBB Büro für berufliche Bildungsplanung (DE): www.bbb-dortmund.de

For more information see: www.active-ageing.info

Or contact the coordinator Drs. Maurice de Greef (e-mail: info@arteduc.nl / phone: 0031 – 6 17 13 06 99)