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Senior Trainees on Coding

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**NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 4, May 2018**

Dear readers,

Log into our fourth Newsletter. Read the messages from Silver Code project partners to find out which the developments are so far and further activities in the Silver Code project itself as well in project partners' countries.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

4th transnational project meeting was held in Lisbon, April 12-13, 2018

The project partners met in the capital of Portugal for a transnational meeting to discuss about the project progress and to design the action plan for the coming months.

Most of the partners managed to finalise the training course translation so far. The next big/important step is the pilot testing, which will be held by each project partner in its country in the coming weeks. The pilot test activity taking place will suit at best learners' needs, by creating the proper learning environment for elders, according to the principle of mixing real and virtual approaches: training will be put into practice through live classes and human contact, engaging elders and making them to actively improve their digital knowledge.

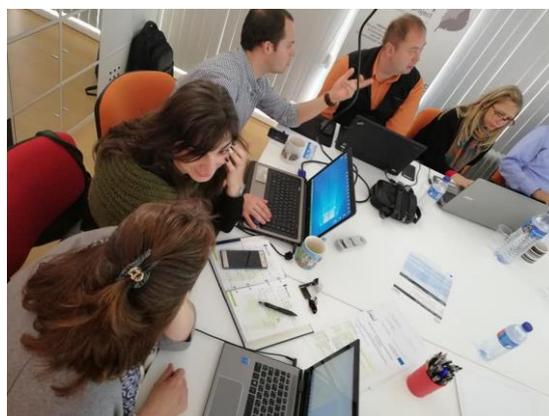
It is important to notice that each training module will be available online in each partner national language and also each partner will have a dedicated forum, where seniors will be able to ask questions and get support/feedback from other seniors and also from tutors. Tutors will also have a forum where they will discuss mainly in English, in order to share their experience with others.

At the end of the pilot testing, there will be done an evaluation of training materials in order to adapt them for the final use. Seniors and tutors will share knowledge, feelings and thought after the pilot testing during a local multiplication event, which will be organised by each partner by mid of summer, but more details will be announced very soon.

One of the latest coolest and valuable activities we will do is a live webinar, in each country. Registered version will populate the platform and will be enhanced and disseminated throughout the Silver-Code community.

Curious about the course? Have a sneak peek here

<https://www.silvercodeproject.eu/en/course.html>



Intensive debates during the fourth transnational meeting in Lisbon 😊

MESSAGES FROM PARTNERS

A MESSAGE FROM SLOVENIA

A trip back into the past but above all into the future

At the recent International conference “Global challenges and Perspectives on Networking for a New Image Of Old Age” organised by Slovenian Third Age University Dušana Findeisen made an overview of the U3A's current international projects. Two of them RefugeesIN (older people's socially engaged filmmaking dealing with integration of refugees and making of film documentaries) and Silver Code (dealing with coding for and by older people) were best received by the audience. Both projects are devoted to social inclusion of older people. Both of them are an attempt at dismantling negative and positive stereotypes about older people and better interconnecting their lives with the lives of other people. Older people making professional and socially engaged documentaries and older people learning about coding attract the interest of other generations who would like to acquire similar socially validating skills as well.

Manuals on coding in Slovenian language are practically non-existent, that's why the Manual written by the Silver Code consortium partners and translated into national languages is a pioneering attempt in this country. Well, an attempt not without some translation problems. Luckily, there are notions known to us older people from the times we went to grammar school where mathematics was one, though for some of us not necessarily most popular subject.

It has been a long time most of us have not been dealing with matrix vectors, operants, operands etc. So, Silver Code course is for us a trip back into the past, but above all into the future.

A MESSAGE FROM AUSTRIA

In Austria, the preparations for the training course are in full swing! It will start on Monday, June 18th and we have already 15 registrations. We are looking forward to a fantastic course and group experience.

Also, the CodeWeek Austria will take place between 6 and 21 October: Together with various Austrian initiatives, www.CodeWeek.at is offering free workshops on programming.

A MESSAGE FROM BULGARIA

As we are in the phase to attract participants for our piloting, Znanie is taking initiative in several computer forums to invite elderly for trying out the materials developed during the project. The course will start at 2nd June 2018. Now it is available on the website where all the interested parties can have a look. For more info, please visit

<https://www.silvercodeproject.eu/bg/course.html>.

During EURORESO network annual meeting the project was promoted among partners from more than 25 countries around the Europe.



A MESSAGE FROM ITALY

Eurocrea Merchant and its team, after the 4th meeting in Lisbon, is working on the modules translation and the piloting to test the platform with the very end-users of the e-learning platforms, 55+ people with a medium-high educational level and also by planning the multiplier event to promote and spread the word about the importance of coding throughout the nowadays society.

New interesting initiatives are currently running some experiences in learning coding for elderly people, like the Social Cooperative Educatori di Territorio based in Turin has done <http://www.cooperativasocialeet.it/?portfolio=e-t-e-anziani>

We are happy that coding is getting more and more spread through the communities. Online and offline. So, let's keep on coding all together and communicate each other's in an original way.

A MESSAGE FROM POLAND

The project Silver Code was presented during the international psychological conference in Wrocław 28-30.04.2018 THE CURRENT WORLD: VALUES AND CHANGES. PSYCHOLOGY AND ITS ANSWERS. In the conference took part about 50 psychologist from different countries in Europe, especially Spain, Portugal, Italy, United Kingdom and Poland.

At the moment University of Wrocław decided to set up the experimental courses with little help of other organizations. In the process of dissemination we shall be supported by Foundation Pro Scientia Publica, which has a lot of international contacts and many co-workers in the field of adult education. Courses will be led at the same time in the U3A at the University of Wrocław and in other U3A, which are members of the Federation of the Universities of the Third Age.

A MESSAGE FROM PORTUGAL



WORKSHOP "DIGITAL DISCOVERIES IN LISBON"
The project Silver Code was presented during the Workshop "Digital Discoveries in Lisbon", AidLearn recently hosted under the European Project [SPADE – Partnership for Digital Inclusion](#). The objective is to train adult facilitators with digital methodologies and skills that enable them to work with seniors in their countries in a motivating way and developing their digital literacy.

Workshop methodology

1) Preparation

When the subgroups groups are closed (3/4 adult facilitators, by group, combining persons from different countries), and before coming to Lisbon, each group did some research regarding an interesting landmark/social curiosity about Lisbon and planned, communicating by email or skype, how they intend to conduct their discovery project, and selected the digital media of their choice to report it.

2) Workshop

Day 1

In the morning of the first day the participants introduced themselves in person and joined in the previously agreed upon groups. A professional journalist made a presentation about "Journalism, reporting and media channels". In the afternoon the groups started to go out to the locations they previously selected and collected all the necessary data for their journalistic reporting presentation (photos, interviews, documents, videos...)

Day 2

On the second day of the workshop the participants continued to go out to the locations, collecting data as and preparing the reportage.

Day 3

On the afternoon of the last day of the workshop the participants presented their projects, that will be available at Wikipedia, Facebook or YouTube, etc. depending on the media used.

This way it was possible to deepen different competencies, participants have to use to successfully carry out their journalist project, as: 1) English language; 2) Digital competencies (Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy, media and internet literacy, data interpretation and analysis) and 3) Transversal skills (critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning, analysis, interpretation, synthesizing information, research skills and practices, interrogative questioning, curiosity, self-direction, planning, self-discipline, adaptability, initiative, oral and written communication, public speaking and presenting, listening, leadership, teamwork, collaboration, cooperation, facility in using virtual workspaces, multicultural literacy).

The Workshop was considered to be very motivating globally and the experience will soon be replicated in Austria, Germany and Sweden.

A MESSAGE FROM ROMANIA

THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE - ELEARNING AND SOFTWARE FOR EDUCATION, BUCHAREST, APRIL 19-20, 2018

The project Silver Code was presented during this international. We started from the idea that young people that were born in the digital ecosystem are considered digital natives. They can use easily smart phones, tablets, computers for different everyday life tasks such as: selecting and reading the news, online paying utilities like water, electricity, gas; using

ATMs for financial operations etc. On the other hand, elder people which do not have such digital skills do not adapt well to the changes of the society. In order to increase the quality of life for elder people they must be integrated in the continuously growing digital world of the present and of the future through digital education. For the education to have a deep impact we consider that it should go to the bases of the digital fundamentals which is programming and specifically coding. Programming concepts for elders are delivered in five modules.

IEEE 12TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON APPLIED COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATICS (SACI 2018), MAY 17-19, 2018 TIMISOARA, ROMANIA

In the context of our digital society the elders are using less the new technologies. In order to encourage their interaction with the electronic devices they need a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms. To facilitate the understanding of the digital world we propose the idea of creating a dedicated community named Silver Code community. The community will be built with people from seven European countries around a set of didactic materials on programming published on web site.

The project is about creating a community of elders over 55 years old that should use blended learning tools in order to learn programming for a better integration in the digital world. It is considered that knowing how hardware and software systems work will increase the confidence and will give better skills to elders in using computers and other electronic gadgets. One of the main goals of the project is the creation of a learning material dedicated to elders for learning computer programming. In this sense we created the Silver Code programming guide.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES CREATIVITY, IMAGINARY, LANGUAGE 2018 – FIFTH EDITION, CRAIOVA, ROMANIA, 24-25 MAY 2018

In a paper entitled *It's Never Too Late to Code: Educational Experiences from SILVER CODE Project*, presented The International Conference of Humanities and Social Sciences Creativity, Imaginary, Language 2018 – Fifth edition, Craiova, Romania, in 24-25 May 2018, professors Alexandru Strunga and Claudiu Bunaiasu explored the curriculum challenges of the adult education programs focused on learning how to code in the context of the recent demographical changes in Europe and particularly Romania. Drawing from several recent developments in the field of curriculum studies (Buyurgan & Kiassat, 2017; Bunăiașu & Strungă, 2012), the study focused on several educational experiences of SILVER CODE project and proposed a comprehensive curriculum model that can be useful in teaching seniors how to code.

STARTING THE PILOT TESTING IN ROMANIA

Between 29th of May – 1st of June, University of Polytechnics in Timisoara will organize the pilot testing of SilverCode programming course. We look forward to welcome the 30 elders who will be introduced, step by step, in the world of coding. This is a good occasion to test the training materials, to see if they are comprehensive and easy to be followed and also to help elders to build some basic, user-friendly and useful JS applications to be used by them.



THE PARTNERSHIP

The Coordinating organisation is the [Znanie Association](#), (Bulgaria)

Partners – [Eurocrea Merchand](#) (Italy); [Slovenian Third Age University UTŽO](#) (Slovenia), [Die Berater](#) (Austria), [AidLearn](#) (Portugal); [University of Polytechnics in Timisoara](#) (Romania); [University of Wroclaw – The University of the Third Age](#) (Poland)



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