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Distance Digital Education in Later Life. Why is It Not Enough?

"Sharing Beyond Borders?
New ways of care, communication and cooperation of older people along the Danube and in Europe in times of COVID-19

10th-11th July 2020



Credit: Katya Simonsen

Social inclusion is not only about having a safe economic social status, but also about stable relationships be they social physic relations or digital relations in our networked society.

Connections matter and lock down was difficult to overcome without contacts. Even digital contacts were a kind of relief.



Source: PTC Meta Data

social pain was caused by the absence of others and the absence of physical social contact

John T, Cacioppo 6 William Patrick(2008) Loneliness. Human Nature and the Need fo Social Connection not to be excluded from public sphere. (Hannah Arendt).

Only in relationships with others we understand who we are, we build our identity, we are creative.

It is important for older people **not to be excluded from the world of new technologies**, to be digitally literate...

We develop most transferable digital competencies at work

Older people give priority to face-to-face contacts, but like each of us. but they also need transferable digital competencies for every day life



How can we make older people acquire digital competencies-whose responsibility is this?

all professionals + educators in older adult education= responsible for reducing the digital divide.

COVID-19 sanitary crisis =
 a real-life situation,
 + a great opportunity
 to get older adults
rediscover the digital world,

by involving them in *distance digital education and learning*.



Slovenian U3A; ICT skills and older people a long history (1984 English, Word Star.

(1984 English, Word Star, Silver Code, SLIDE,

P3AE, LearnersMot, 4 elements, Timeless = multimodal learning

CINAGE, RefugeesIn, SPIDW (filmmaking, featured films +documentaries)

Socially engaged older learners' filmmaking

Trailer; joy, Lemon dance The right to adventure

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L80k9wW0iC8

Starting from scratch. From 2.36'- 6.26'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLdQV_u4XeY

Learning digitally during the COVID-19.

Free of charge courses for mentors and students- TeamViewer, Zoom.. massive enrolment

25% of our educational programmes were digitized

Problems: concentration span, how to stimulate interaction, intervals of visual and auditive perception, the role of images.

Disadvantages: not all topics appropriate, a reflection on new and modified methods, collaborative learning?

Advantages: topics which are very visual!

Time management

Learning community....

But face-to-face needed!!!

Thank you for your "digitalized" attention

DISCUSSION Jot down some ideas....preferably consulting people around you.

In what way do older people in your country participate in the digital sphere?

On average do they feel socially included? If yes, in what ways do they participate in public sphere?

What would happen if older people were left behind, if they were excluded from the world of new technologies, if the digital divide among generations were increased?