



Sharing European Memories
BETween generations

1st Newsletter
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SEMBET (Sharing European Memories Between Generations) is a project that aims to capture and share social memory through intergenerational communication. Starting from the individual memories of seniors, the project will develop and reinforce the social memory of a community. The seniors will be the teachers, guides and mentors for the successive generations, transmitting memories of daily life, which would otherwise be lost. Such memories about family, love, work, leisure, school etc may seem arbitrary, but are actually key to understanding the development and transition of our societies, as well as to building social memory.

The project led by FUTURA (Italy), started in January 2013 and has as participants Aranzadi Society of Sciences (Spain), Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (Poland), the Institute for Adult Education (Romania) and the Kranj City Library (Slovenia). All the organizations work so with the social memory so with adult education in their communities.

So far, the project has completed the research of the state-of-the-art stage and is currently working on the design of the methodology, and preparing the pilot experiences in their countries.

Intergenerational memory transmission and seniors expectations

Before going into the design of the methodology, the **SEMBET** partnership has undertaken research to learn about the state-of-the-art of intergenerational memory transmission and the expectations and needs of the seniors.

The results show that intergenerational transmission of knowledge and memories can happen through initiatives of memory collection and archiving, through educational projects or even through just creating a meeting space for people and thus facilitating intergenerational communication. 33 example projects of good practice from the five participant countries (Italy, Poland, Spain, Romania and Slovenia) were analysed, and may be categorised as follows:

- Projects creating a meeting space, which usually facilitates intergenerational learning in a rather informal way;
- Projects for collecting, archiving and sharing memories, where seniors are interviewed and then the collected materials are archived and used in various ways;
- Educational projects involving an exchange of certain skills and/or knowledge through direct teaching or training;
- Community initiatives, organised in a 'by the people for the people' way, which connect people from different generations through common interests, aims and shared activities.

Seniors reading club in MKK (Slovenia)



Participant in the survey (Slovenia)

Seniors day in Timisoara (Romania)



SEMBET team in Poznan (Poland)

As a part of the research, seniors born between 1920-1960 were interviewed in the five countries, and an analysis of these allowed us to discover interesting ideas regarding intergenerational projects, such as:

- The majority of the seniors are interested in participating in intergenerational projects;
- There is a relatively low awareness rate of intergenerational projects;
- There is a common concern regarding the involvement and motivation of young people.

Additionally, the interviews provided information about what the seniors expect from intergenerational projects. The two benefits that the seniors mentioned most often were: to feel valued and useful (to the society or to anyone) and to gain energy and positivity from contacts with the young.

The transnational report and national reports can be consulted here:

<http://sembet.eu/resources>

Next steps

The project team is currently working on the design of the methodology, which is expected to support local organizations in setting up intergenerational projects aimed to transmit and share the local memories, while fostering local identity. The research on the state-of-the-art has shown that there is few projects combining the three elements: inter-generational approach, memory and impact in young adults. The methodology will have as general steps:

1. **Definition** of the project: WHAT topics, WHAT purpose and to WHOM is addressed and by WHOM will be implemented and monitored.
2. **Method of transmission:** definition of tools and activities to gather and share the memories at local level.
3. **Social memories:** How to rise from the individual memories to the collective memory of the community.
4. **Outputs:** How to give expression to the transmission process and how to make accessible to the whole community the collected memories.

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