

# **DIALOGUE-Bridges between Research and Practice in ULLL**

## **ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION**

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**SUMMARY:** 1. CASE STUDY: ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION OF ADULTS UNDER THE LLL; 2. IMPORTANCE OF THE CASE STUDY; 3. GOOD PRACTICES, POLICY AND ACTIVITIES OF GRANADA UNIVERSITY ON THE CASE STUDY: 3.1. STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE THE ACCESS AND INCLUSION IN EDUCATION OF ADULTS; 3.2. SPECIFIC STAFF: 3.2.1. The “Open Classroom Training” or “Adults’ Classrom” of the University of Granada (Aula de Formación Permanente); 3.2.2. Cabinet of Quality of Life and Aging of the University of Granada (Gabinete de Calidad de Vida y Envejecimiento); 3.3. SENIOR STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA (ALUMA); 3.4. WHAT RESEARCH HAS BEEN MADE OR IS IN PROGRESS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA ABOUT DE CASE STUDY; 3.5. ACCESS OF ADULTS TO FORMAL OR OFFICIAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITARY LEVEL; 4. ON-GOING WORK.

### **1. CASE STUDY: ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION OF ADULTS UNDER THE LLL**

Within the working group on "access and participation" in the first group meeting held on January 25, 2011 in Barcelona (Spain), was agreed to focus on the study of four groups at risk of exclusion: senior people, Disabilities, Unemployed and immigrants.

For the second group meeting to be held on 16-18 November in Genoa (Italy), the member of the University of Granada participant in the project has focused on analyzing the case study on access and participation in education the adults. She has therefore paid particular attention to addressing the issue at the University of Granada, as it has been a pioneer in the Spanish universities in dealing with training and encourage greater participation of adults at the university level, through various channels that are of great interest.

### **2. IMPORTANCE OF THE CASE STUDY**

It is an indisputable and global fact, the progressive aging of the population.

In view of this, is a social policy priority to ensure the dignity of older people, seek their

active role in society, promoting their access to education and to achieve an exchange of experiences and knowledge between generations.

This not only brings a benefit to these people individually, but for the whole society. The elderly can contribute views and experiences of great interest, and maintain an active life intellectually and socially, which does benefit them individually and for the social community useful.

### **3. GOOD PRACTICES, POLICY AND ACTIVITIES OF GRANADA UNIVERSITY ON THE CASE STUDY:**

The University of Granada is one of the pioneers in Spain in the concern to promote access and participation of adults in high education. And this through various and complementary channels.

#### **3.1. STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE THE ACCESS AND INCLUSION IN EDUCATION OF ADULTS:**

The University of Granada is working for access and inclusion of adults through several complementary instruments:

-In its organizational structure, the University of Granada has created several units designed to promote and achieve access and inclusion of adults: the "Open Classroom Training", also known as "Adults' Classroom" (Aula de Formación Abierta o Aula de Mayores) and "Cabinet Quality of Life and Ageing" (Gabinete de Calidad de Vida y Envejecimiento).

-Is involved in research and transfer of results in the field

-Has opened the access of adults to the official or formal university education.

-Has launched flexible and non-formal education programs specifically for adults

-Has prompted the association movement of older students.

#### **3.2. SPECIFIC STAFF:**

At the organizational level, there are two units at the University of Granada that deal specifically with the elderly:

##### **3.2.1. The "Open Classroom Training" or "Adults' Classroom" of the University of Granada (Aula de Formación Permanente)**

<http://www.ugr.es/~aulaperm/>

**ORIGIN:** The Open Training Permanent Classroom is an initiative of the University of Granada pioneer in Spain in the field of adult education at University level. It was launched in the academic year 1994/95 in order to meet the educational demand of people over 50 years, which is supported at the University without any further prerequisite rather than having reached that age.

**MAIN ACTIVITY AND OBJECTIVES:** Permanent Classroom Open Training operates in three areas:

- Teaching Adult with a non formal a flexible program
- Research on lifelong learning for adults
- Service to the society



**IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD:** The Permanent Classroom offers an undergraduate program for adults, flexible, in two cycles: a first cycle of specific education in three courses, and a second cycle, for an indefinite period of education.

The program aims to improve the situation and the personal and social skills of their students, with a double intention, educational and social. To carry out this task the University of Granada has the support of public authorities.

The Permanent Classroom offers a comprehensive educational performance in two ways:

- dealing with the adult students not only as individuals but as members of a larger community, considering their interaction to reach an integral development of both of them;
- promoting all typical tasks of any university center: teaching, research and service to society;
- ensuring that the active life of adults and their participation will not end because of their age, and that they can continue learning and promotion themselves, finding new goals to reach or getting other now that life had denied them before.
- Responding fully to the mental and physical development of the adults, fully addressing both their personality profiles, not only increasing their knowledge, but also their capabilities.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

- Cultural exchanges between adult students from other universities and abroad.  
Meetings and Cultural Trips
- A broad Cultural Offer for Seniors (OFECUM)

**QUALITY:** In December 2007, the Permanent Classroom of the University of Granada achieved the certificate of quality ISO 9001:2000 International Standard.

This document confirms that the Management System of Quality of this service of the University conforms to the requirements of the standard cited above, having been planned and implemented effectively and achieving the quality objectives proposed.

### **3.2.2. Cabinet of Quality of Life and Aging of the University of Granada (Gabinete de Calidad de Vida y Envejecimiento)**

[http://vcabd.ugr.es/pages/gabinete\\_calidad\\_de\\_vida\\_y\\_envejecimiento/index](http://vcabd.ugr.es/pages/gabinete_calidad_de_vida_y_envejecimiento/index)

**ORIGIN:** Created in 2008 with the aim of achieving involvement and consideration of the role of adults in university life, more broadly, not just tight to their education, especially trying to promote research programs related to improving their quality of life and social integration, promote intergenerational programs, and develop intervention programs delay dependence.

The Cabinet Quality of Life of the UGR aims to achieve the collaboration of men and women retirees and early retirees of the University of Granada, so that they are integrated into a health and wellness program, while their knowledge, experience and maturity, will help to illustrate, advise and guide the steps of the college students who seek advice and guidance, both in their respective academic disciplines, such as skills, abilities and skills necessary to enter the world of work.

The aim, therefore, in a pioneering project in Spanish universities, combining borderless aging, health and psychosocial well-being, and use the experience and wisdom for the benefit of the young. In this regard, the Cabinet Quality of Life offers retirees an office UGR care university students and a program of assistance and activities to improve health status and psychosocial well.

The Cabinet hopes the Quality of Life, also to establish a stronger link between the university intense and society, between the company, the world of work and college, through an integrated retirees group in a Committee of Experts. It also seeks to benefit the university students of the enormous intellectual, professional and expertise of colleagues retirees and early retirees, putting students at the service of his wisdom, knowledge and experience.

The **human capital of the University of Granada is the richer the more reaches maturity**. This paradigm, applicable to any private or public institution in the world, however, collides with the paradox of social conventions, under which retirement seems more adults away to social participation. This entails the risk of depriving the social community of human capital, the intellectual baggage of experience and wisdom of older people.

### **ACTIVITIES WITH ADULTS:**

- Intergenerational Meetings
- Computer Workshop "interconnected" with two main objectives: the teaching of basic computer operation and implementation of cognitive stimulation exercises through the computer.
- Cultural Tours guided.
- Gatherings.
- Organization of a poetry group.

### **COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS:**

- Social Loneliness Project (Agreement with the Foundation Pedro Barrie de la Maza and Caritas) working with elder people of semi-abandoned villages in the North of Spain.
- Cheer yourself and the others Project (Agreement with the City Council in June) where they are taking care programs for elders, introduction of animal adoption program and other activities.
- Loneliness Project (UGR-Imsero-Government of Granada and a telecare company) to analyze the sources that generate greater social isolation for elder and propose strategies to meet them and improve the quality of life and the adults personal satisfaction.
- It is working with neighborhood associations.
- It is working with Congress of Gerontology and older.
- It has been published the journal "Journal of the Evening" for the dissemination of the activities of the Cabinet and the promotion of innovative projects with adults.
- Intergenerational activities have been conducted with young students.

### **3.3. SENIOR STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA (ALUMA)**

In addition to the structures of the university, which ensure access and integration of adults, the adult learners themselves of the University of Granada have been organized, independent but actively, in an association through which maintain and articulate their active participation in the university community and society.

University Seniors Alumni Association (ALUMA) was founded in 1996. It is an association recognized by the University College as a student association, at the same level as the ones of young students.

Attention is devoted to the welfare, social and cultural life of the older students at the University of Granada, and maintains an active and continuing relationship with the activities of Open Training Room of the University.

Among the hundreds of students, who are their partners, there are experts in all fields, as teachers and professionals, capable to encourage all kind of initiatives.

ALUMA prepares travel and cultural activities, carried out inter-university meetings with students from other classrooms for the Elderly, and working with the Open Training Room of the UGR during the enrollment period advice and information to new adult learners.

Also, it publishes the magazine "The Senate," to spread in Spain the concerns of adult learners, the activities of Open Training Room of the UGR, interviews with personalities of our cultural, social and political fields, and information of ALUMA for its members and students in general.

The magazine publishes the various cultural activities organized by the Association: cultural visits, meetings, congresses, and reports on health issues, history, entertainment, etc.

ALUMA headquarters is in the Vice President for Student.

### **3.4. WHAT RESEARCH HAS BEEN MADE OR IS IN PROGRESS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA ABOUT DE CASE STUDY**

Concern for this case study is reflected in the participation of members of the University of Granada in research programs related to it. For illustrative purposes, include the following:

#### **\* SELF-LEARNING PROJECT ORGANISED GROUPS IN EUROPE. Socrates (Grundtvig): ADULT EDUCATION AND OTHER FORMS OF EDUCATION**

The central idea of this project is the implementation of autonomous learning groups of older people in various locations in Europe, using new information technologies and communications. The project focuses especially in older people interested in continuing education. Within the framework of an intergenerational approach, other age groups could also be included in the project.

Project duration: September 2000 to August 2002.

For more information, consult the following address: <http://giig.ugr.es/> ~ Grundtvig

#### **\* GERON PROJECT (AGENDA FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - CANADA): TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE ELDERLY: A TRAINING INTERNATIONAL GERONTOLOGY**

This is an international education project in Gerontagology, which includes, among other things, a plan for student mobility between institutions of the European Union and Canada.

For more information, please visit the web: <http://giig.ugr.es/~geron>

#### **\* H2O-SMS PROJECT: WATER SAVING - SAVING MANKIND. PROJECT GRUNDTVIG LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME**

Training activity for older people in relation to the theme "Water as a resource: Sustainability." For more information, visit the project website at the following link: <http://h2o-sms.eu>

**\* ANTAMYCAVI PROJECT: NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING MORE COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THEIR FORECAST ON IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE (FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS: IMSERSO)**

The project's objective is to promote healthy aging, improve the quality of life of older people by their empowerment to adapt to a society in which new technologies have become an increasingly influential role and introduce the practical application of acquired knowledge. The making available this new world of cyberspace and new technologies to the group of elderly will be one more way to contribute to learning throughout life and, therefore, improve their quality of life.

The correct level of learning is achieved when the student will know how to apply in their daily lives the knowledge acquired, for which the proposed project activities will be organized practices in which students can develop creative ways what they have learned previously.

The aims of the proposed project are directly related to the following content areas of the actions to develop research projects supported by the IMSERSO: Research on promoting healthy habits among the elderly in areas such as intellectual activity with special attention to maintenance of memory, research on learning potential in older people, effects of training initiatives and "education for life" in adults in their work and postlaboral last phase, acquisition of new skills.

**\* SABICAM PROJECT MEANS HEALTH, WELFARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF OLDER. FINANCED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (funded by the IMSERSO).**

It has a double aim:

1. On the one hand to develop a integrated profile of health, wellness and quality of life of a group of older college students.
2. On the other hand, know how adult students could benefit with a program of educational intervention, medical and psychosocial. And as a result become themselves educators and social health and wellbeing.

The project's philosophy is based on an integrated concept of health that has considered the physical and mental dimensions, as well as social and individual level, of people over 50 years.

**3.5. ACCESS OF ADULTS TO FORMAL OR OFFICIAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITARY LEVEL:**

The Spanish Government's policy provides for the first time in the Organic Law 2/2006 of May 3, Education, and Royal Decree 1892/2008, the University access to people who, not having a degree, have more than 40 years. It seeks to facilitate access for

disadvantaged people, who have been deprived of access to university education in the ways traditionally established so far.

The Spanish law, and therefore the practice of the University of Granada, distinguishes two types of access for adults to high and formal education:

- Over 40 years, without qualification but with experience or employment.
- Over 45 years, without qualifications and unable to demonstrate prior experience or employment.

#### **4. ON-GOING WORK:**

In furtherance of this research, the member of the group of the University of Granada has planned the following activities:

1. Analyze and specify what is the status of the case study in Spain: theory, policy and practice.
2. Analyze and specify the number and the prior training of the students that access to the non-formal studies for adults at the University of Granada; including a gender perspective.
3. Analyze and specify the number and the prior training of the adults that access to the formal studies of the University of Granada, including a gender perspective.
4. Contact by the Adults Alumni Association of the University of Granada with other similar Spanish associations, in order to know their views on access and participation of older people in education, problems faced and demands.