

The Lifelong Learning Programme

The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk is a European funding programme, which supports education and training across Europe. The LLP provides funding for all stages of lifelong learning. The LLP is made up of several different programmes, one of which is **Grundtvig**.

Grundtvig

Nikolaj Frederik Severin Grundtvig (1783 – 1872)

Grundtvig is the ideological father of the Danish Folk High School, though his own ideas on education had another focus. Rather than educating learned scholars, he believed the university should educate its students for active participation in society and popular life. Thus practical skills as well as national poetry and history should form an essential part of the instruction.

Grundtvig's ambitions for school reform were not limited to the popular folk high school. He also dreamed of forming a Great Nordic University (the School for Passion) to be situated at the symbolic point of intersection between the three Scandinavian countries in Gothenburg, Sweden. The two pillars of his school programme, the School for Life (folk high school) and the School for Passion (university) were aimed at quite different horizons of life. He was of the opinion that education should mainly be taught within a national and patriotic framework, yet always including a broader cultural outlook. Grundtvig promoted values such as wisdom, compassion, identification and equality. The European Commission has called the Lifelong Learning programme, specifically directed towards Adult Education, after him.

Our Continent - Our Culture

The aim of this project is focused on the various ways Europeans have contributed, and are contributing, to the composite culture of Europe. Partners address European Culture with a focus on language, identity, active citizenship, European cohesion, intergenerational links and communication technology in relation to seniors and young people.

The project objectives involve responding to the educational challenges of an ageing population in Europe by helping adults improve their knowledge and competence. It promotes the mobility of individuals involved in adult education and assists older people to access education.

Outcomes show attitude changes towards others as the result of research on, and interaction with, fellow Europeans at a personal level and via communication technology aided by a dedicated web site and a social networking platform.

Partners in the programme, along with Downe U3A, are:

Ada und Theodor-Lessing Volkshochschule Hannover, Germany

CTP Scandiano, Italy

Senior University - University of a Coruna, Spain

Kyronmaan Opisto, Finland

Forave – Associação para a Educação Profissional do Vale do Ave, Portugal

The partner website can be viewed at: <http://ourcontinent-ourculture.eu>

WHAT Is the GRUNDTVIG Programme?

Grundtvig is part of the European Commission's new Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and aims to strengthen the European dimension in adult education and lifelong learning across Europe through increasing participation and by making it more equitable. The Programme seeks to respond to a key educational challenge faced in Europe – namely an ageing population.

Objectives

- To enhance the quality and accessibility of mobility of individuals involved in adult education; and
- to improve and increase the level of European co-operation in lifelong learning.

WHAT IS A GRUNDTVIG PARTNERSHIP?

Grundtvig Partnerships are: small-scale European cooperation projects focused on the process of establishing exchanges on specific themes and on co-operation activities between organisations working in the field of adult education in the broadest sense. Organisations decide to work together on one or more topics of common interest while actively involving the participation of adult learners. Given the educational challenge of an ageing population in Europe, Grundtvig Partnerships encourage and support the participation of older learners. Learning Partnerships encourage a greater awareness of the importance of planning for language learning and cultural issues which are a key part of trans-national working and inter-cultural dialogue.

WHAT IS A 'MOBILITY'?

Each participant visiting a partner country = one mobility.

HOW MANY PARTNERS DO I NEED FOR A PARTNERSHIP?

The partnership must consist of organisations from at least three of the participating countries. At least one has to be from one of the 27 Member States of the European Union. All new projects must last two years - no more, no less.

EXAMPLES OF GRUNDTVIG ACTIONS INVOLVING SENIORS

www.seniorcommunication.eu

www.seniorstoryboard.com

Below Seniors from five european countries visit Downpatrick in May 2007 as part of a Grundtvig programme coordinated by William Devlin.

