



SHARING ECONOMY FOR SENIORS

SHARING ECONOMY STATE OF THE ART

With contributions from the following organizations:

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- University of Thessaly, Greece
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Introduction

The SHES project is set to help seniors get a better understanding of ICT and use it as a way of staying active and included in the daily life. The solution identified is sharing economy, which is a collaborative economic model based on people sharing possessions and services, either for free or for payment, usually using the internet in ways that produce economic, environmental, social and practical benefits.

Since the 2010's, sharing economy has expanded a lot in the world. Some famous examples of sharing economy platforms include AirBnB, that offers apartment or house rental between private individuals, or Uber, that offers peer-to-peer carsharing. But there are plenty of other platforms, that are maybe less well-known, but nevertheless useful.

Therefore, the partner consortium of the SHES project decided to do a state of the art and analyze the sharing economy platforms available in their respective countries, that seem the most useful to the project's target population: senior citizens. To do so, each partner selected three to five sharing economy platforms and answered the following questions:

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)
2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)
3. Location (country, area of activity)
4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform
5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?
6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?
7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?
8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?
9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?
10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform
11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

1. Sharing economy platforms in Spain

The Sharing Economy or Collaborative Economy comprises all the activities that suppose a sharing of goods or services between individuals in exchange for an agreed compensation. Its main objective is to achieve the most efficient use of the available resources.

These models are becoming usual amongst the Spanish economy and the lack of its integration amongst seniors could generate a gap between the society. In this report we are going to analyse five examples of sharing economy platforms that can be considered as best practices in the country.

1. ComParko

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

ComParko is a web platform that offers an intermediary service between owners/owners of parking spaces and drivers who want or need to use them. Through the platform, it's possible to search, rent or share a parking space for months, weeks, days or even hours. <https://www.comparko.com>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Online website

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Started in Spain and now operates over all Europe

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Unknown

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

Parking rental services. It isn't non-profit.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Online: The whole process is made online, both for drivers and owners. They have to fill their details and in case of being owner of a parking space, they sign a

bidding contract with the company by which you allow it to manage your space. The process is totally free.

For drivers, the bookings are online too. They have to select the place where they want to park and establish also the dates.

Offline: The meeting between the owner and the driver to use the space.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can engage by creating a profile in the website, so they need to have a laptop or mobile phone with Internet connection. They can engage as driver looking for a parking space or as the space drivers, situation in which they will have to establish the contract with the company.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

The benefits are wide, related to sharing of services between drivers and parking space owners. It's an easy way of travelling or planning.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Some limitations could be found due the reluctance of seniors to use online platforms. Moreover, the lack of the adequate digital skills or tools could hinder too their access to these services.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

We can point out as best practice the fact of connecting people with needs that can be matched, as well as the positive environmental impact, cost reductions, etc.

2. Leetchi

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Leetchi is an online platform leading the crowd gifting world. The service proposes groups of people to collect money quickly, easily and safely. <https://www.leetchi.com/es>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Online website

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Worldly

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

12 million of used around the whole world

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

Money is exchanged, the platform provides you a different way of saving money.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Online: You do your process online. In first place, the user creates his/her money pot; then, he/she can share it by the social media in order for the people to contribute and finally he/she sends the money to the administrators of the webpage and they send it to the final destination that the user chooses (philanthropy, a determined person, etc.).

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can engage by creating a pot to promote a specific purpose or by contributing in one that has been already created by another person.

Seniors can engage if they have digital tools and skills, as they have to create a profile in the webpage and then, they should share the pot in the social media. Highly knowledge of different tools is needed.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

They can find a different way of saving for a specific purpose. It can be very beneficial for the seniors to feel the while learning to develop in a digital environment that is more and more common each day (banking platforms, social media, etc.).

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

The barriers could be those related to digital skills as well as reluctance or distrust in the online banking processes or money-related ones. The lack of knowledge about the safety of the procedures carried out with the money could also constitute a barrier.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

We can highlight as best practice that it constitutes an alternative way of saving and obtaining money for financing different projects.

3. ValenBisi,

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

ValenBisi is a bike sharing platform that offers the citizens and visitors a total of 2.750 bicycles distributed in 275 stations, in close proximity to each other in different parts

of the city. The citizens can benefit from these services by the sharing of bicycles.
<http://www.valenbisi.com>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website and app. Then, there are also physical terminals where you can pay and recharge the cards to be able to rent a bicycle.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

ValenBisi is present in Valencia, Spain, although most cities and countries have its own bike sharing platforms.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

44.400 subscribers to the platform

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

A bicycle rental service is given by the local government in exchange of a low price. Is similar to public transport systems. It's not a non-profit company although it's a public service, as users have to pay to use the bicycles but not to be active in the subscription system.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Online: You can subscribe to the service by filling a short questionnaire with the personal data. Then, the cards to use the bicycles can be recharged also online.

Offline: The recharge of the cards to rent the bicycles can be done by the physical terminal also.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

The seniors can engage by becoming users of the platform and using the rental system of the bicycles. They can accede to the subscription tag in the webpage and fill the initial personal information, but the rest of the actions and can be done offline.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

The seniors can feel that they are using a modern public service that all ages use and that is also helping them to save, to move though the city and to exercise themselves.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

The potential barriers could be the initial dealing with the digital tools when filling the personal information. Moreover, the classical or traditional thought about using feeling unusual to use shared transports instead private ones.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The sustainability of the service and positive impact on the environment. Moreover, the cost reduction because the prices are low as well as the positive impact on the body due to the exercise.

4. Tutellus

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Tutellus is the leading online collaborative EdTech platform in the Spanish-speaking world. Through a wide variety of video tutorials, anyone can learn, teach or promote knowledge. <https://intl.tutellus.com>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website and mobile app

3. Location (country, area of activity)

The company is present in the Spanish-speaking countries, but mainly in Spain.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Unknown

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

A learning experience based in different courses available on the website. The exchange is learning/teaching-money. It's not a non-profit service, as you have to pay a fixed but low amount of money each month and you have access to all the contents.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

All the process is online, from the subscription to one of the plans that allow you to enter into the offered content to the learning or teaching process.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

The seniors can engage by becoming users of the platform and joining one of the different subscription plans. They can create their profile and fill the information required for being teacher or student. The skills required are basically digital.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Seniors can feel actively realized when joining this kind of innovative learning or teaching courses, as they can schedule their day and activities and be active in the platform at the same way without leaving their houses. It's useful for those seniors that want to learn and cannot afford more expensive classes or cannot leave their houses because they require from external help. This could be a great solution in order for them to be able to harmonise their lives with the innovative experience of these kind of digital learning.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

The potential barriers could be the reluctance to use new tools or ways of thinking to perform classical activities as learning. Having to face a totally new approach to learn something could be a limitation for the use of the platform by the oldest citizens.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The best practices that we can highlight from this platform is that there a lot of potential benefits and facilities that can add to the senior's lives, being the learning experience able to be adapted to each situation and to allow these group of people to learn in an easier and more effective way. Moreover, the personalisation of tutors is a bonus also for the seniors.

5. Wallapop

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Wallapop is a platform that allow people to buy and sell second-hand objects, clothes, etc. <https://es.wallapop.com>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website and mobile app

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Spain

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

20.000.000 of users in Spain and 70.000 daily transactions

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

The exchange is between goods or goods-money. It's not a non-profit organisation, although the users don't have to pay to the webpage in order to be able to sell or to buy any product.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Online: the registration process as well as the upload of the pictures of the products that the user wants to sell. The conversations between buyers and sellers are done online also, through the chat of the platform.

Offline: the meeting with the buyer or seller.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can engage by downloading the app at the mobile phone or entering into the webpage and creating a profile. Then, if they want to look for objects, they just have to write the description in the search box and then talk to the seller by the internal chat. If they want to sell anything, they need to take a picture and upload it to the platform with a description of the object below.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Seniors are able to join a community where they can exchange goods or to buy second-hand ones as well as to meet new people.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Maybe the quantity of steps that they have to follow to upload an object or to buy one or the communication that it's made between buyers and sellers, that is made through the app or platform and by text messages. This lack of personal communication and having to meet with unknown people could constitute a barrier.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The best practices that we can appreciate from this sharing economy can be the social inclusion of the seniors, the opportunity of finding a second life cycle for the objects and the possibility of connecting people with similar needs.

2. Sharing economy platforms in Italy

4 best practice have been selected to analyze the Italian scenario. Overall it appears that the sharing economy is increasingly used by Italians, particularly in local mobility and rent of holiday accommodation with a few international big players dominating the market.

Nevertheless, there are a lot of Italian examples of sharing-economy platforms that are active in different sectors and at the National level with good results that have brought them from being simple start-ups to consolidated companies. It is due to mention, though, that many interesting examples, still appearing online as active, revealed to be actually closed-down or to have changed their core-business due to bad results.

1. Italian Stories

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Italian Stories is a platform that matches artisans with people interested in specific hobbies. In the platform artisans can provide their availability to organise workshops and study-visits to their laboratories while normal citizens can take part in the activities available browsing through what is on offer and where.

<https://www.italianstories.it/it/home>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website

3. Location (country, area of activity)

The company is based in Riva del Garda (Trento province). The area of activity covers the whole national territory, although there seems to be a focus on the North and Centre of Italy at the moment in terms of offers.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

In Italian Stories the main type of goods delivered is knowledge, in the sense that people can learn from and practice with artisans and craftsmen, acquiring new skills or just enjoying a new activity. The platform is for-profit.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole registration process is online. The participation in the activities offered through the platform is instead conducted personally at the artisans' laboratories.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can engage in the platform by offering their eventual particular skills (ie: gardening, metal-work, wood-work, knitting etc) or they can decide to participate in the workshops available. There are no special ICT required besides the ability to navigate Italian Stories's website and purchasing the desired service online.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

The platform provides the opportunity to maintain an active life-style by either learning something new or by teaching specific skills to a new audience. Most importantly it provides the opportunity to fight loneliness and social isolation by offering the chance to meet new people and apply new competences.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

The main barrier for seniors might be eventual ICT illiteracy. The service works as professional events/masterclass therefore trust is guaranteed through the role of the platform that acts as facilitator between artisan and attendees of the workshop.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The platform allows to appreciate artisans and craftsmen adding value to their personal and professional stories by connecting them with an audience that may otherwise not have access to their knowledge and activities. At the same time and conversely, Italian Stories allow people to connect with specific hobbies and activities that they might have found difficult to access to, or that they might have never thought to be interested in.

2. AffittoGiardino

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

AffittoGiardino works very similarly to other platforms, such as AirBnB, that allows to share private properties with temporary users willing to pay for a price. It focuses exclusively on gardens and outdoors, therefore it is particularly suited for people willing to host events or for people with big outdoor spaces that need to increase their revenues or wish to meet new people.

<https://affittogiardino.it/>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website

3. Location (country, area of activity)

The company is based in Bologna (Emilia-Romagna region) and it is active all over Italy, although there is a predominance of offers in the Centre of Italy (namely Bologna, Tuscany, Rome and Naples).

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform**5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?**

Professionally.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

On AffittoGiardino material goods are exchanged, since the focus of the transaction is the actual rent of physical space (namely gardens, pools and other outdoor spaces). The company is for-profit.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole registration process is online. The participation in the activity is offline, as it takes place in specific physical environments (ie: gardens and outdoor spaces).

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Older people can either engage by offering their own garden/outdoor space for somebody else to use it, or they can rent the space themselves for organising parties, events, family-reunions or other activities. There are no particular ICT skills required besides the ability to navigate the platform's webpage and finalising a transaction online.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

AffittoGiardino could be useful to people who needs to have a contact with nature or wishes to maintain a good social life with family, friends or with people who share the same interests as them. At the same time, it could provide an additional source of revenue for older people possessing a garden and willing to rent it, as well as it could be an opportunity for lonely citizens to meet new people and take part in social activities.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Besides eventual ICT difficulties, AffittoGiardino lends itself to a trust issue, particularly in the case where the older citizen is the one offering the outdoor space, a part of their life/privacy/intimacy to strangers. Even though they are supposed to declare in advance the kind of activity they wish to pursue and rules are set, it could be difficult for an older person to decide to "open up" to people they do not know if they can trust.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The platform allows to share only the external part of one's residential property with a focus on nature and on sociability. It can prove to be useful for people seeking to increase their

income and for people wishing to meet new people/try new activities in order to contrast loneliness and social isolation.

3. Ugo

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Ugo is a platform that allows senior citizens and their family to find caregivers in their city. The pool of caregivers is approved beforehand by the Ugo team and provides company and assistance to older or disabled people that wish or need to carry out different activities in the city.
<https://hellougo.com/>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website + app

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Some big cities (Milan, Turin, Genoa, Rome and Lecce) in addition to several minor towns related to specific projects. The ambition is to cover the whole national territory soon.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Around 500 users are currently active in the platform.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

The platform allows for the exchange of services (namely the service of assistance and company). It is for-profit.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The registration process is entirely online. Although it is possible to reach the company calling by phone in order to ask for information and instructions.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Senior citizens can either take advantage of the service offered by the platform through the company of caregivers that will allow them to perform activities that they would otherwise find very difficult to accomplish on their own or without the assistance of a family-member; or they can offer their time and services to other people through Ugo.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

The service provides a further opportunity to older people and their families to access the assistance of a caregiver who can provide support in several different activities (especially regular and daily tasks in the city). On the other hand, it allows people with spare time to stay active, both physically and socially.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Once again, besides eventual ICT difficulties (although Ugo states that it is often younger family members that get in touch with them online), trust is another issue that needs to be faced by the people who decide to use this service; most probably it depends on each person's attitude and character to determine whether it will be a success or not.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The service is innovative firstly because of its digital form, that is offering care-services through a match-making platform online; secondly, and maybe more importantly, the service is focused on providing assistance to the person in need outside of their house and for activities that need to be carried out in the city (such as doing the shopping, going to the post-office, going for a walk etc).

4. Village Care

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Village Care functions as a platform that matches needs (older people and families) and offers (service providers). Although, it does not work on a peer-to-peer basis but rather on a sort of business-to-customers approach (much like AirBnB and Booking.com). Users can browse the offer of nursing homes, day-care and Alzheimer centres, assisted-living units in their territories as well as finding professional caregivers and opportunities of care-at-home services.

<https://www.villagecare.it/>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website

3. Location (country, area of activity)

The company is based in Milan (Lombardy region) and is active at the National level.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

Knowledge and services are exchanged through the platform as potential users can identify what opportunities are available in their surrounding according to their needs.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The entire process is online.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

ICT skills or assistance is required.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

The platform allows older people, families and caregivers to build a comprehensive knowledge of the services available at their doorstep. The wide offer of opportunities will therefore make it easier to find assistance in conducting an active style of life and to eventually contrast social isolation.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

ICT illiteracy and the scarcity of contact options may make it difficult for older people to navigate the service.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The service provides a comprehensive directory for families and senior citizens looking to find what is on offer in the territory around them in terms of opportunities for care, medical support and residential options. Furthermore, the platform provides a service of consultancy and orientation to users and professionals.

3. Sharing economy platforms in Greece

Sharing Economy is an upcoming sector and covers different situations in everyday life. The fact that is getting accepted and is adopted by a large part of the population there is the need for older people to be introduced to this mindset. Sharing or Silver Economy refers to "Shared" platforms regarding transport, housing and rent, retail sales, financing and labor market etc. and affects the whole economy.

For this reason, SHES partnership has collected best practices from each partner country that includes sharing initiatives in their region. University of Thessaly collected four (4) sharing economy best practices in Greece. They cover the areas of transportation, online ticket booking and health sector.

1. Ticket services

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Ticket Services <http://www.ticketservices.gr/>

Ticket Services is an online ticket booking platform for theatres, concerts and festivals. Users have the possibility to search for upcoming events around their area and book their tickets online. In order to purchase tickets from the website you must first sign up (create a user account). This is achieved by entering your email as username and a password of your choice. Since users have created an account, they may log in whenever they want, in order to perform bookings, or just to see transaction history etc.

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

It is a website.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

It covers events across Greece and most of them are in Athens and Thessaloniki.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

No available data.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

It is professionally managed with a registered office in Athens.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

Individuals are able to purchase tickets online. The users navigate in the website for free and they are asked to provide the information of their credit card once they select a desired event to attend.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole process, registration and purchase, is online.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can be engaged with the platform very easy as they only need basic digital skills, access to Internet and smartphone or computer. However, this might be a barrier with older people who are not engaged with modern technology.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

By using this website, seniors are involved in culture and entertainment events and they feel socially included and confident. They can search for an event that meets their preferences

and buy tickets easily without additional costs. Moreover, they do not have to wait for hours in long queues to buy their tickets. The immediate benefit is that they are actively involved in cultural events and at the same time have the opportunity to get in touch with people of all ages.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Some seniors who lack of the basic digital skills may face some difficulties. Also, a lot of seniors are not used to pay online with credit cards. It is a prerequisite that seniors have an email in order to register on the platform. Therefore, basic knowledge of correspondence and web browsing is required. An important obstacle is the lack of e-learning, non-familiarity with the Internet, but a major obstacle is the refusal to learn new, and at the same time, unexplored and obscure objects.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Seniors are allowed to explore entertainment possibilities in their area and in this way, they are active and socially included. As an online service, it offers competitive prices in tickets and the option to select specific seats.

2. The beat

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

The beat: <https://thebeat.co/en/?intl=1>

Beat is responsible for developing a taxi cab and peer-to-peer-ridesharing mobile application, the Beat app, for smartphones and mobile devices. Beat's headquarters are in Athens, Greece, where it is popular among locals.

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Beat has a website where users may be informed about the services and it is also available in mobile application for android and IOS as well.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Beat is currently available in Greece, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Argentina.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

The majority of the company's ride-booking activity is abroad, in Latin America, where more than 250,000 drivers have registered with the app. For the other countries no relevant data has been found.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Beat is a private and professionally managed application. It has been founded in 2011 by Nikos Drandakis.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

There are registered drivers in the application and users are able to share a ride or use it individually. Users know in advance the car and driver's information who is going to pick them up. The fact that you can share the ride, it reduces the cost of one's trip to his destination.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole process of registration is online. Users after downloading the app they are asked to register in the application by providing their mobile phone. After this short procedure, they can set their destination and select what kind of ride they wish to get. They also informed about the estimated cost of their route.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

The platform requires basic ICT skills and access to internet. In general, everybody can use it and it could be considered user-friendly. The only disadvantage is that senior users are not familiar with smartphones and they prefer the traditional way of just calling a taxi.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

If seniors choose to use the Beat app they will get more transport options and they will feel more active and socially included. They will be engaged with a modern application and this will develop their digital skills.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

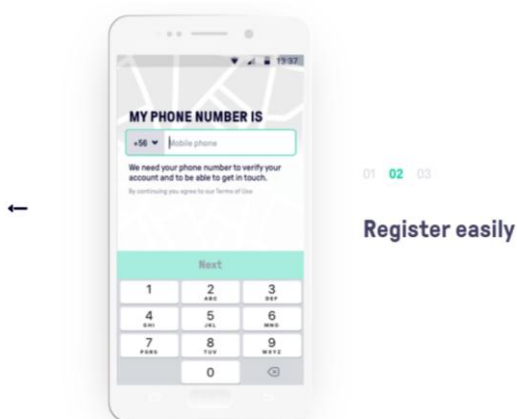
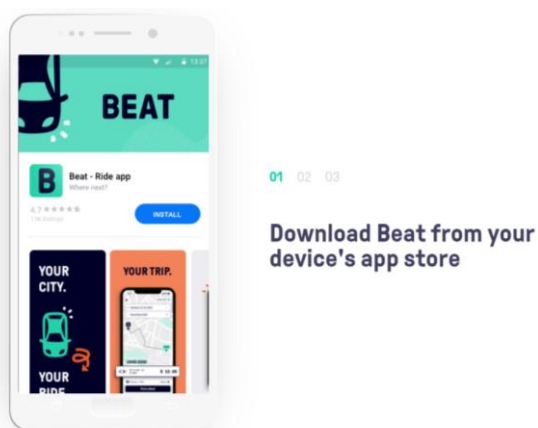
- Not having a smartphone
- Lack of ICT skills
- No access to internet

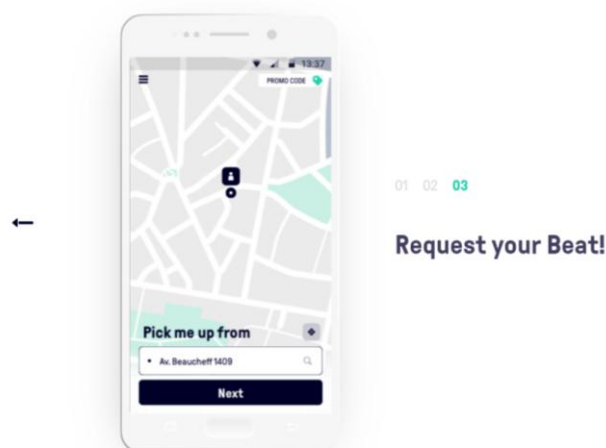
They may feel scared to use a sharing transport service with people that they have never met before. Also, they may also believe that it's not a trustworthy mean of transport as everything happens online.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Users may get a ride quickly by using an application and in an affordable price. There is the option of a sharing ride, thus the travel costs are reduced even more.

The three easy steps to follow in order to use the application:





3. Doctor any time

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Doctoranytime: <https://www.doctoranytime.gr/>

All users and seniors as well, are given the possibility to search for any kind of doctor they may need. The website has search filters for all the specialties and for different areas across the country. Seniors can view the doctor's profile, read information about his experience and services he provides. When the user selects the doctor he wishes to visit, he can book an appointment in a couple of minutes for free. User is asked to fill in the contact information and a brief explanation of the reasons of visit.

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

It is a website with an app available for smartphones.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

It is available only in Greece.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

According to the information of the website, it contains 5000 doctors, 394000 registered users, 120 diagnostic centers, 65 Medical specialties and 40 cities in Greece.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

It is professionally managed. Through the action of ICT4Growth, the company has been strengthened within the framework of the OP «Digital Convergence» & the ROP of Attica. The project is co-financed by Greece and the European Union.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

There are registered doctors from different health sectors. Patients may search for a doctor, check recommendations from other patients and book an appointment. This procedure is offered for free and patients can pay directly to the doctor upon their appointment.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole process from registration to booking an appointment is online. Users, including patients and doctors, have to register in the platform by providing their personal data and email account.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

The platform requires basic ICT skills and access to internet. Seniors may not face any difficulty in using the website or application. However, all users need to have an email account, and this could be the only barrier for older people.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

This platform provides a modern way of searching for a doctor. Thus, seniors may feel closer to the younger generation. Moreover, they explore new ways of navigation and they do not follow the traditional ways of booking appointments with doctors and medical centers.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

The only barrier could be the limited access to internet services by seniors and the lack of basic ICT skills. Otherwise, the platform is user-friendly and simple.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

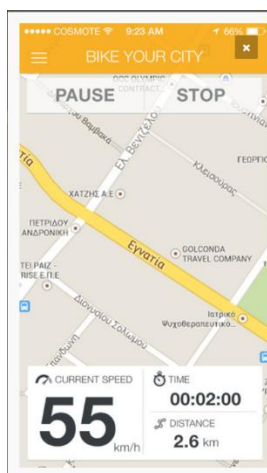
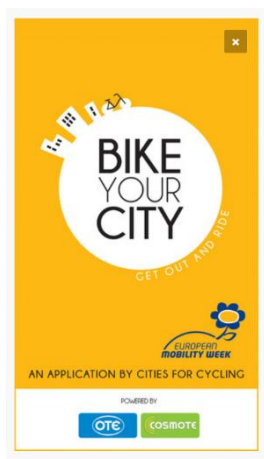
The fact that users are able to search for a doctor online and to get informed about the services that registered doctors offer could be considered as a best practice. The possibility to book an appointment with your doctor at no cost and without wasting time is practical.

4. Bike your city

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Bike your city: <http://bikeyourcity.gr/>

The application «Bike your city» is a mobile app for sustainable mobility by bicycle. The creation of the application «Bike your city» stems from the idea that “cycling in the city” means daily short journeys (from 1-5 km), given that about 80% of daily trips in modern cities regards distances less of 5 km. The purpose of the application is to highlight the importance of “all do a few kilometers, contributing to a common goal.”



2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Bike your city is available online at bikeyourcity.gr or through the application for android or IOS devices.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

It is available in Greece.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

There are no available data.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

BIKE YOUR CITY application is an initiative of the NGO "Cities for Bike", in cooperation with the European Federation of Cyclists (ECF) and with the support of the City of Athens.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

The application records the kilometers that each user of the application does separately, but at the same time considers the total of kilometers implemented by the total number of users who will use it. Also, in the future will give users the possibility to check for available bikes in their city to share.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole process of registration is online. Users after downloading the app they are asked to register in the application by providing their email address, username and password in order to use the application.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Users should know how to use a smartphone, so it requires basic digital skills. The only disadvantage of the application is that it is available only in English.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

The application aims to increase bicycle use in the city by ordinary everyday users in order to create a “community” of citizens who understand that the improvement of everyday life is very important. This application fosters the physical activity and seniors will improve the quality of their life and their health as well.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

- Lack of digital skills
- Not having a smartphone or computer
- Knowledge of English language

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Users are encouraged to improve their physical condition and be active.

4. Sharing economy platforms in Slovenia

We selected **five** sharing economy initiatives with corresponding platforms:

1. www.prevoz.org (carpooling)
2. <https://avant2go.si/> (car sharing)
3. <https://www.knjiznicareci.si/> (library of things)
4. <http://www.zelemenjava.si/> (crop swap)
5. Homeforexchange.com (exchange of apartments or houses)

Four of the initiatives are national or local and one is international.

They cover various areas: mobility, food, accommodation and objects of daily use.

Some are non for profit, other for profit (one pays the fee), but still affordable for users, including seniors.

1. Prevoz: carpooling platform, mobility, national

<https://prevoz.org/>

1. Prevoz - in English: transport

“Find a ride home or offer it to anyone looking for it. Find someone who goes in your direction to get home faster and save you money on fuel.” (from their website)

Prevoz.org is Slovenian well known and used carpooling platform. Carpooling (also ride-sharing), is the sharing of car journeys; with more people using one car, carpooling reduces each passenger's travel costs – fuel, tolls and the stress of driving as well as carbon footprint, congestion on the roads and the need of parking spaces.

2. Prevoz.org is a webpage and since 2016 also a mobile app.

3. Location

The platform covers transports on all Slovenian territory; nevertheless, most of the offered transport is between bigger towns and cities. On the platform there is also a section offering drives from Slovenia to other European countries and back, majority to/from neighbouring countries – Italy, Austria, Croatia.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Prevoz.org has 35.000 registered users by now, with over 60.000 visits per month.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

The platform was set up in 2005 by a group of students and it was also used mostly by students and managed voluntarily at the beginning. As it became very popular and required more technical support, it was developed further, also by EU funds for development of alternative mobility initiatives (2013-2014). Currently the platform is maintained also with the income from advertising: mainly related to the context – at the moment Slovenian main insurance company, offering car insurance - see the screen shot below (and other non-aggressive ads).

There is no fee for users of prevozi.org, neither drivers nor passengers, which makes it different than other similar carpooling platforms, well developed in many EU countries (e.g. www.m.blablacar.com).

6. What is exchanged or shared?

The driver shares with other passengers the space in the car and consequently the cost of a trip he/she would do anyway. On the principle it is non-profit initiative, there is no fee to register and to use the platform. The income from advertising on the platform is used for maintenance of the webpage and its customer's support.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

On the prevoz.org platform everybody can see the list of journeys, departure day and hour and when one clicks on certain journey, detailed information opens: what kind of car, how many places are available, cost, picking up and dropping off places. But to get a contact of the driver (person who posted this journey) each user has to register online; username and password is required, but there is no fee to join the platform. When registered, the user has access to contact information, usually a mobile phone number of the person offering a drive. Therefore, up to this point the service is on-line, the communication that follows is off-line, usually by texting or phone calls. The co-passengers pay their share in cash.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

The platform can be used by everybody with basic ICT skills and access to internet. We consider it user-friendly, as the navigation is simple and intuitive, with all necessary information and guidelines e.g. "how it works" (FAQ section, also security issues etc.) Therefore, we consider there are no particular skills required. On the other hand, this may also be a drawback, the reason why seniors do not use this platform, along with the security issues and concerns arising from the fact that they are not used to sharing initiatives.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Potential benefits of carpooling for seniors:

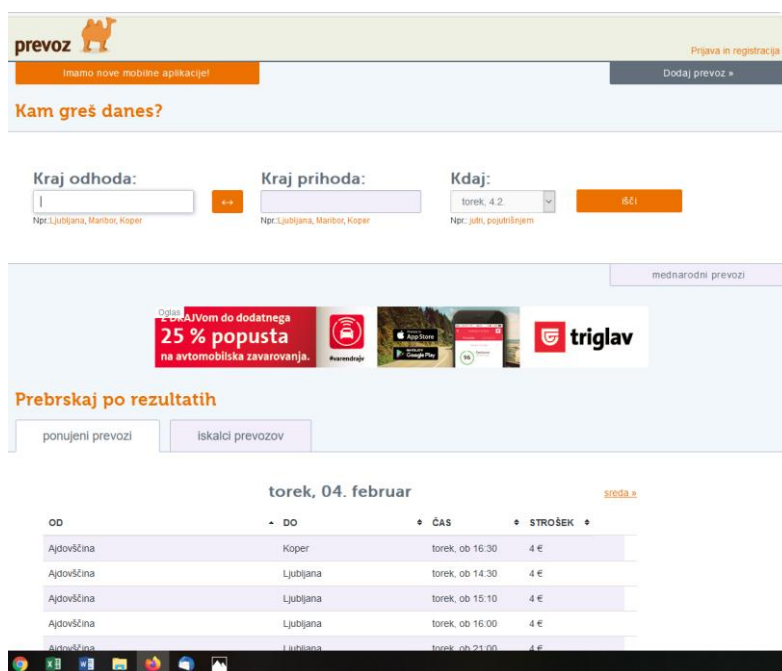
- Increased mobility; carpooling offers more transport options. As the public transport in Slovenia is not well developed, carpooling is considered as one of the possible solutions to this problem. It contributes to mobility of persons, including seniors, who may not have a car or driving licence any more or live in towns and villages with poor public transport connections.
- Money saving: paying less for a journey,
- Social inclusion – intergenerational coexistence; by using prevozi.org, seniors meet new, usually younger people, listen to their stories, therefore it can be an effective ground for intergenerational cooperation, learning etc.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

- Not having basic ICT skills, access to internet or not using smart phone;
- Concerns arising from the fact that seniors in Slovenia are not used to sharing initiatives, in this case driving with unknown persons: What if this person drives dangerously? What if he/she is not reliable and will not pick me up? What if other passengers will be annoying? It is more likely that seniors have this kind of concerns and prejudices.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

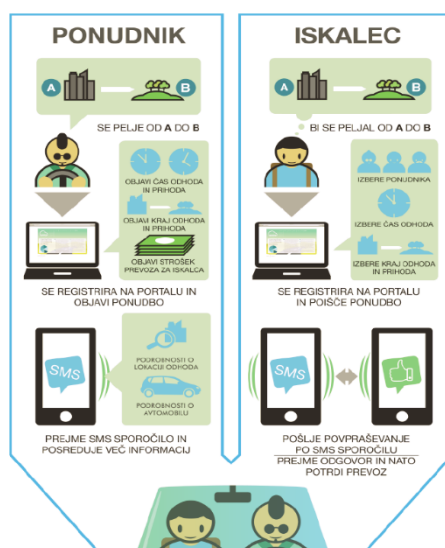
- Mobility aspect: seniors can get a ride for acceptable price, also to destinations not connected with public transport.
- Economic aspect: using prevoz.org reduces travel costs for each passenger.
- Environmental aspect: carpooling reduces carbon footprint, congestion on the roads and the need of parking spaces.



The screenshot shows the prevoz.org website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the logo and links like 'Prijava in registracija'. Below it, a search section titled 'Kam greš danes?' contains input fields for 'Kraj odhoda' (Origin), 'Kraj prihoda' (Destination), and 'Kdaj' (When). Below these fields are suggestions for popular routes like 'Ljubljana, Maribor, Kopar'. A 'Prebrskaj po rezultatih' section shows filters for 'ponujeni prevozi' and 'iskalci prevozov'. A table of results for 'torek, 04. februar' is displayed, showing routes from Ajdovščina to Ljubljana and Kopar, with departure times and costs.

OD	DO	ČAS	STROŠEK
Ajdovščina	Kopar	torek, ob 16:30	4 €
Ajdovščina	Ljubljana	torek, ob 14:30	4 €
Ajdovščina	Ljubljana	torek, ob 15:10	4 €
Ajdovščina	Ljubljana	torek, ob 16:00	4 €

The opening page, underneath there is "location of departure" box, "location of arrival" (desired destination) and "day of departure". When you click the "find" button, the list of available rides opens (to-from), with hour of departure and the cost.





Instructions from the webpage: "How it works?"

On the left – driver offers a ride from A to B, on the right – potential passenger searches for a ride from A to B

2. Avant2Go: car sharing platform, *mobility, national*

<https://avant2go.si/>

1. Car sharing is a model of car rental where people rent cars for short periods of time, often by the hour and only pay for their usage, based on how long you use the car and the distance travelled. It differs from traditional car rental, as it enables an occasional use of a vehicle. The renting organization is usually a commercial business. Car sharing is part of a larger trend of shared mobility, allowing the user to lower the cost of his/her mobility, as there is no longer the financial burden of owning a vehicle.

Avant2Go service includes registration, insurance, fuel, maintenance, vignette, loss of value and free parking at Avant2Go points. They provide access to the vehicle network 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at pre-known and designated locations where vehicles are picked up and returned. Avant2Go car sharing uses only 100% electric vehicles from established manufacturers that are technologically advanced, reliable and easy to use.



How Avant2Go works?

3 simple steps: 1 - become a member by registration, paying the fee, take part in training, 2 – make a reservation for a car by using mobile app, 3 - enjoy the ride

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Avant2go is a website, with all necessary information about this service, including sharing and eco/green philosophy background. One has to register and pay the fee (3 various packages are available) to be able to use the platform and rent a car. Standard package includes subscription fee, 4 hours training, insurance and 70 EUR of credit to use the, which we consider a very reasonable cost.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Avan2Go service, with designated locations where vehicles can be picked up and returned, is available in the capital Ljubljana and its surroundings, also Ljubljana airport - and following towns: Kranj, Maribor and MurskaSobota. In 2018 Avant2Go expanded to Croatia, opening an office in Dubrovnik.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

No data available. The answer from Avant2Go: *...“our system is still in the growth phase, so we do not share the desired information with the public...”*

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Avant2Go is a commercial service provider, therefore the platform is managed professionally, information updated, with user's support, FAQ section etc.

6. What is exchanged? What is shared?

The cars are owned by company, which rents them and charge their users only for the distance travelled and the time used. Consequently, for people living in urban areas, owning a car is not necessary any more, as it is more expensive than renting it only when needed.

It is for-profit initiative, but supported partly by municipalities (free parking locations) and therefore very accessible to users.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole process is on-line, from registration till using the car, unlocking it with the mobile app etc. Avant2Go is simple to use through a user-friendly innovative smartphone app.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can engage as any other users. Smartphone and advanced knowledge of ICT is required.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Active ageing: when seniors use car-share, they pay only actual costs, less than if they were owners of the car. They stay mobile, independent, connected.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

As mentioned, advanced knowledge of ICT and a smart phone are required to be able to use Avant2go car-share service. Both can be potential barriers for seniors, non ICT users. Other drawback could also be the fact that all available cars are electric and therefore automatic, which is not what most of seniors are used to drive.

Possible solution: more training for seniors, how to use this kind of cars.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Car sharing allows seniors to lower his/her mobility costs, stay independent, mobile, active, included.

3. Knjižnicareči, *local, borrowing*

<https://www.knjiznicareci.si/>

1. “Knjižnicareči” means “library of things”. It is a sharing initiative, based on the same model as library, where books can be borrowed. In this case, various things as all kind of tools, music instruments, kitchen utensils, sports and camping equipment, toys, various gadgets etc. can be borrowed for a limited time. At the moment there are over 250 items which can be borrowed.

The library (the place) with available things is open twice a week, for 3 hours in the afternoon, when it is possible to pick the object one needs or return them. It is also possible to become a member, conditions are: bring one thing from the “most wanted” list, or pay an annual membership 20 EUR or contribute 30 hours of voluntary work. With membership, you can borrow things as many times as needed, for a symbolic 1 EUR per borrow.

Knjižnica reči



Advantages of sharing (co-using): saving money, saving storage place, new experiences instead of shopping, building trust among people, less things, less waste.

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

It is a website, with the presentation of the initiative and its background, where also all available objects are listed (inventory), with a photo, English translation and the price per "borrow" (usually one week). It is possible to make an on-line reservation. <https://knjiznicareci.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse>

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Knjižnicareči is located in Savskonaselje, the residential area in Ljubljana, only 15 minutes' walk from the center.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Data not available

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

This library started in 2014 by local residents, some of them urban landscape architects (prostoRož, <http://prostoroz.org/>) and Slovenia coworking initiative; at the beginning it was partly supported by EU funds (regional development funds). Most of the work to run this initiative is done on voluntary basis. One of the partners is also Municipality of Ljubljana which offers a place for the library, along with a spacious storage room, for no fee, only to cover the running costs.

6. What is exchanged? What is shared? Is it non-profit?

As already explained: in this library goods, things, objects are exchanged, as they are used when needed, only for a limited time and then returned. It is a non-profit initiative, as all the income is used to maintain the website, and to pay the

running costs of the place for the library. The objects which can be borrowed are donated by people and companies, but nevertheless, in a good shape.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

It is possible to navigate the website, see all available things/objects that can be borrowed and make on-line reservation. The rest – to pick the reserved object - has be done in person.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can engage as all others. They can also use these services even if they have no access to internet, neither a smartphone; they can come to the library and borrow what they need.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Benefits of co-use of things: people make savings (money, place), by joining the sharing community they stay connected and included, active in their local neighbourhood. The people who run “knjižnicareči” also organize local events, weekend social gatherings for all generations, storytelling events, tai chi classes etc.



Sharing community at one of the “knjižnicareči” events.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

No special or obvious barriers for seniors.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Why buy if you can borrow? Less objects, gadgets, things, means less waste, rubbish, consequently less pollution. The social aspect is also very important.

4. Zelemenjava, *local, food*

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

<http://www.zelemenjava.si/>

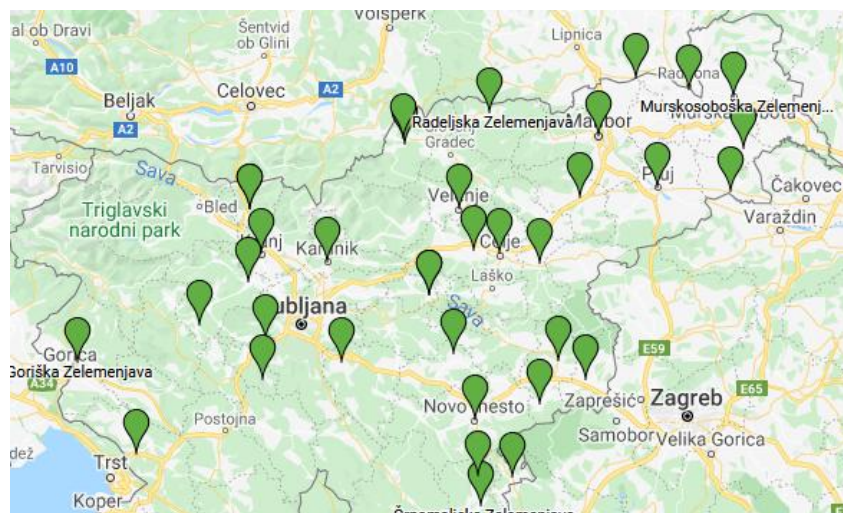
A seed, plant or harvest swap or “crop2swap” (zelenjava = vegetables, menjava = exchange) **crops2swap** is a self-organized civil initiative for exchanging surplus seeds, seedlings and crops from home gardens, which enables all the participants to eat better, save money, reduce food waste and to meet the neighbors. It started in March 2013. They organize crop swap events in many towns all over Slovenia, on a volunteer basis and many participants help out with the equipment, skills and ideas. Participants are people who grow vegetables for their own use, all generations, all walks of life. Their only rule is that money is not used as an exchange currency, thus promoting self-sufficiency and solidarity among members of the local community. Advices as “If any service or material has to be bought, forget it, try to find other option”, can be found on their website, among “how to organize a crop swap event?”

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Www.zelemenjava.si is this initiative’s website, run by its users – gardeners. This website is the central point to get information, ads, advice, calendar of events etc. They are also active on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Zelemenjava/>

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Zelemenjava events are organized in over 30 Slovenian towns by local organizers. They publish the event on zelemenjava website and in promote it in their local media.



Map of Zelemenjava locations

V torek, 11. februarja, vabljeni na Log pri Brezovici na Semenjavo: menjala se bodo semena, sušena zelišča in začimbe, knjige o vrtnarstvu in vrtnarjenju, domače marmelade in vložene dobrote.

Kontakt: [Mojca](#)



Zelemenjava

KUD Kosec

**V torek 11. februarja,
16.30-18.30,
OŠ Log-Dragomer,
učilnica št. 10**

The announcement of one of Zelemenjava events, which takes place in local school in small town near Ljubljana, where seeds, dry herbs, spices, books on gardening and cooking, homemade jams and pickles were exchanged.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Data from FB: 7,699 followers, approx 20 events are organized per year, where 20 to 50 people takes part.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

The website, as well as the whole initiative, is run voluntarily. One of the members of this community, a person with some website management knowledge, takes over the website for some time, e.g. few years, then next volunteer takes over.

6. What is exchanged? What is shared? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

Seeds, seedlings, vegetables, herbs - fresh or dry, spices, pickled or preserved vegetables, also garden tools and other gardening equipment, eco fertilizers, cooking and gardening books, boxes for storing etc. On the website, people can post recipes, advices, announcement e.g. "we have surplus of pumpkins, you can pick them this Saturday, address, hour".

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

People do not have to register to access the content of the website. However, they can subscribe for the Zelemenjava news. The purpose of the website is mainly for spreading information, promotion of events.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors are frequent participants of crop swap events. The Zelemenjava activists estimate that more than a half of participants are retired people, over 60. They like to take part,



exchange products, but only few are willing to be involved in organization of events.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Zelemenjava promotes solidarity, generosity, socializing, self-sufficiency and respect for home-grown produce. Swapping events enable fellow gardeners to exchange experience, local knowledge, bring people together and consequently grow the local community.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Zelemenjava is, by default opened to all generations, it is the gardening which connects people of all ages, and the wish to meet other gardeners and exchange with them their seeds and crops. We estimate that in smaller local communities, a lot of older participants learn about the Zelemenjava events from local media or by word of mouth and do not even

know about the website; even if they have access to internet, the website is not their main source of information.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Bottom up approach, from the people - for the people by bringing people together, non for profit, promoting solidarity, healthy food and lifestyle, self-sufficiency etc.

5. Homeforexchange, international, accommodation

<https://www.homeforexchange.com/>

1. **Home exchange** - also known as a **house swap** - is an economical and comfortable way to travel. You arrange to occupy someone's **home** or holiday apartment at your travel destination while he, she or the whole family come to stay at your home. Therefore, accommodation costs nearly nothing, "only" the fee to join the website. One can see all available accommodation offers on this webpage, but cannot access owners' profiles unless he/she registers, make his/her own profile with description of home (with photos, location etc.) and pays the fee, which is approx. 100 EUR per year (different packages).

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Homeforexchange is a website, one of many offering exchanges of properties, houses or apartments, it can be the place where one really lives or a holiday house. Other similar webpages offering the same service:

www.homeexchange.com, www.lovehomeswap.com, <https://www.thirdhome.com> etc.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

This is an international, even global website, run by a small company from Netherlands, offering exchanges all over the world.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Exact data is not available. Our estimation: some thousands active users, with their listings.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

The platform is managed professionally and is financed from the memberships (average approx. 100 EUR per year, per member).

6. What is exchanged? What is shared? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

In this case houses, apartments and holiday facilities are exchanged. It is for-profit, but still affordable for frequent users.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The whole process is online, from registration, managing one's profile, uploading photos, paying the fee, contacting other members, arranging the exchange etc. There is also very well-organized user's support, FAQ, templates and suggestions how to make one's profile, also a template of the agreement for an exchange etc.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

For seniors exchanging homes can be an interesting and above all, affordable way of finding accommodation for their travels and vacations, as the costs are much lower than they are on the holiday market, on commercial platforms (Airbnb, Booking etc.). or through travel agencies. Nevertheless, basic ICT skills are required.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

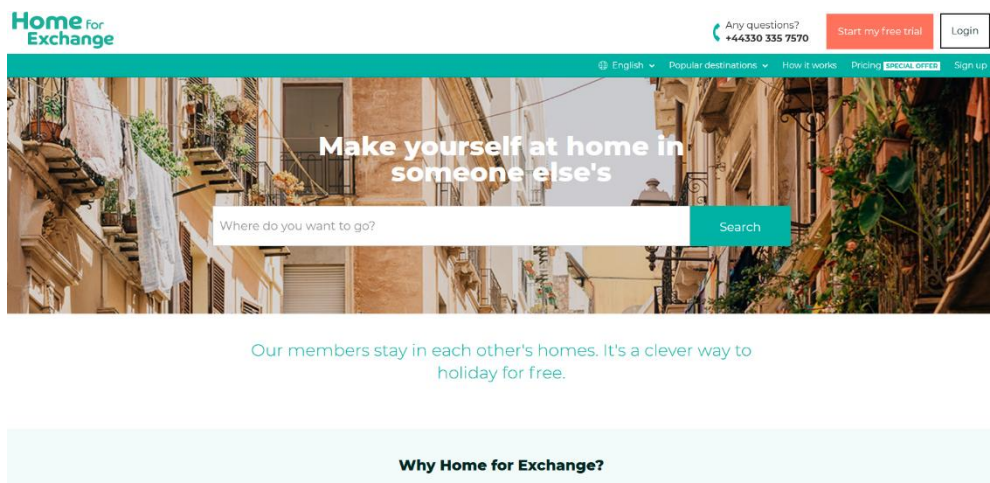
In Slovenia nearly 90 % of seniors are owners of the house or apartment in which they live, many of them also own a holiday house or apartment. The reason for this were favourable conditions back in socialist times, when middle, or even low class people could afford to purchase their own apartment or build their own house. But now their situation is not as favourable as it seems, as most of them are asset rich, but income poor, as the pensions are low. By using this platform, they could afford to make better use of their property, travel to other destinations in Slovenia or other countries, what they could not afford otherwise. Travelling, learning about other cultures, civilizations, meeting new people, contributes significantly to active ageing and social inclusion.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

As it goes for other already mentioned sharing economy initiatives, basic ICT skills are required to handle the process on the website. In this case, as it is "international" initiative, other barrier could also be good level of English (or other foreign) language, to get registered, to communicate with potential exchangers and once the exchange is agreed, to communicate about logistic details, e.g. where to pick keys etc.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

This platform makes better use of one's property and allows him/her to remain mobile, travel more and pay less. Last, but not least, by exchanging homes, seniors can experience authentic local culture by staying right in the heart of things.



Opening page of the homeforexchange website

5. Sharing economy platforms in France

Sharing economy is a collaborative economic model based on people sharing possessions and services, either for free or for payment, usually using the internet in ways that produce economic, environmental, social and practical benefits. In the last decade, sharing economy has developed a lot, especially in France which is now the country that uses that type economy the most in Europe.

In order to understand better how sharing economy works and how it can benefit the senior population, we selected five France based platforms to analyse and see what can be considered as best practices.

1. L'Accorderie

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

L'Accorderie is a bank of time: a platform allowing citizens to offer and receive services and know how related to their skills, competences and hobbies. Everyone has to offer something and can receive something; the exchange currency is time. The concept was launch in Quebec and has now reached an important number of French cities.
<http://www.accorderie.fr/>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website

3. Location (country, area of activity)

France: Paris (14th, 18th, 19th districts), Chambéry, Die, Surgères, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Ambérieu, Lille, Strasbourg, Limoges, Montpellier, Pau, Aiguebelle, Romans, Canéjan, Pau, Annecy and Lyon.

Canada: Quebec region

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Over 4 000 people involved in all locations.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

The platform is professionally managed. In France, it is supported by Fondation MACIF.

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

The platform is non-profit. Time, assistance and knowledge are exchanged. Examples such as cooking classes, sports classes, manual activities, furniture restauration etc.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Registration is done offline with a manager of an Accorderie. Using the timebank can be done online or offline. The service and know how exchange involve direct contact.

Each participant makes his/her skills and know-how available to the others in the form an offer. Each offer appears on the web page of the local Accorderie where the person became a member and in a paper directory for members who do not have access to the Internet. In the member's area and the directory, members have access to the contact details of the people offering the services. They can therefore contact them directly to agree on the desired service and the time of the exchange. Each exchange of services is recorded in a time bank, according to the principle "one hour of service given is worth one hour of service received", regardless of the service provided and the skills required. All services are put on an equal foot. In the time bank, each member has a time account in which the hours given and received are recorded. Accounting is done using time cheques. When a person becomes am member, 15 hours are deposited in his account, allowing him to exchange services immediately.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors can engage by offering skills and know how as well as courses and knowledge. They can also receive classes and learn new skills. It values a diversity of hobbies and competences. Members have access to the services of the other members of "their" local Accorderie, as well as to collective exchange activities, i.e. services of general interest for all the members. Online skills are needed to register in the platform and

manage the time bank credits. But possibility to do it offline if the seniors are not able to do it completely online.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

A time bank aims to combat poverty and exclusion by strengthening solidarity between people of different ages, social classes, nationalities and gender. Through cooperation and the exchange of services, they develop the conditions for a concrete and daily improvement in the quality of life of all its members. Time banks are typical examples of collaborative economy based on the creation of a new form of wealth and new forms of solidarity. It is a democratic and organized way to build an alternative system that values all its members. In terms of active ageing, it values seniors' skills and knowledge. It can be a tool to fight against loneliness and foster concrete and possibly long-term social ties.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

The potential barriers are very low and relate to availability and trust. Currently, the Accorderies are locally implemented in certain neighbourhood offering closeness but limiting its availability in all parts of a certain city. A senior can also have issues finding specific know hows or there is a risk that nobody is interested in the know how they offer. The issue of dependence towards one person or service is not relevant as you have to give to be able to benefit from offers, this is truly empowering. If the time management system can raise difficulties it is easily overcome as offline support is given.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

- Valuing time
- Valuing different skills and know how
- Stimulating exchange
- Alternative social and economic relations (time is the currency, solidarity is the main outcome)
- Social engagement
- Locally implemented and community strengthening
- Fighting against social exclusion
- Fighting against loneliness
- Intergenerational
- Mixing of online and offline support

2. Un toit 2 générations

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Un toit 2 Générations puts into contact people in order to find an intergenerational flatsharing opportunity. <http://untoit2generations.fr/>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website and forum.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Metz and Nancy.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

Unknown

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

Accommodation, eventually a rent is paid. There are three formulas: In the “solidarity formula” the student benefits of a free room in exchange for a formal obligation to insure his/her presence in the house being available a few nights per week and a few week-ends. In the “conviviality” formula the student pays a symbolic amount in exchange for a reassuring presence in the house but without formal obligation. In the “friendly” formula the student pays a small rent without any obligation at all but having a friendly and open state of mind and willing to communicate with his/her host.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Registration and discussion forum online, the rest offline: meeting the platform moderators, signing the contract, flat sharing relations. Once the flatsharing contract is signed, there is a 100-120 euros annual fee paid for the platform services of mediation.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

By hosting a student, the senior person can socialise more, share his knowledge and hobbies, learn new things. Having company at the house can be invigorating and stimulating. The platform’s goals are to foster intergenerational communication and to fight against the increasing social isolation of the senior population. No particular ICT skills needed apart from having an e-mail and completing a registration form.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Intergenerational housing and the platforms fostering this practice are a very important initiative in our society: it can help ensuring a basic right (housing) and it can directly participate to healthy and active ageing as well as fighting isolation which is a priority of most European governments. Finally, there is clearly a financial benefit.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Possible barriers are data protection (although justified, the form asks for a lot of personal information such as address, age, hobbies, family situation, housing situation, pets) the subscription fee, the fear from the senior and the student that the relation won't work out, there is also a real risk of mismatch. This system asks for a lot of commitment and some responsibility from students. Intergenerational housing is a sensitive subject as it deals directly with people's intimacy and with a basic need. Mediation is key. Indeed, Un toit 2 generation offers a very strong mediation system (human, legal).

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

The simplicity of registering, the forum for communication and exchange of experiences and the in-person follow up by the platform team.

3. Les Talents d'Alphonse

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

Les Talents d' Alphonse is a collaborative platform whose objective is to foster intergenerational links and the transmission of know-how between retirees and younger people. <https://www.lestalentsdalphonse.com/>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website and a Facebook page

3. Location (country, area of activity)

Paris, France

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

1000 seniors on the platform since 2016

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

Services, knowledge

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Online: on the website, you select what you want to learn, fill in the contact details and postal code. Then you reserve a date by talking with the senior. Finally, pay your course on the website by secure payment.

Offline: share and learn with the senior

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

On the website, go to <http://www.lestalentsdalphonse.com/je-transmets/> and select the know-how you wish to transmit, as well as your contact details. They will contact the senior to finalize your registration in our Alphonse community. Once the senior is registered, he/she will discuss and determine the number of hours with the person interested. Consequently, the senior needs to know how to use a computer and internet.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

By connecting generations around a common passion, Les Talents d' Alphonse encourages the transfer of know-how and rethinks the place of retirees, too often side-lined in our society. On the contrary, they would like to offer all pensioners the possibility of finding a place in society by meeting people from their neighbourhood and bringing them their knowledge! It is by valuing the experience they have acquired over nearly 40 years that we enable retirees to regain meaning in their daily lives and live a fulfilling retirement.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Lack of offers according to neighbourhoods + the price of 15 euros by hour. Also, the fear to meet unknown people or invite people in their house.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Connecting different generations is a concept that can be easily replicated in any country or for any project.

4. BlaBlaCar

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

BlaBlaCar is car sharing platform. It puts drivers with spare seats in their cars in contact with passengers travelling in the same direction. <https://www.blablacar.fr/>

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website and mobile app.

3. Location (country, area of activity)

BlaBlaCar was originally created in France, but has expended its activity to twenty-one others countries: Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, Poland, Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, India, Mexico, Serbia, Romania, Croatia, Hungary, Brazil, Slovakia, Czech Republic.

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

80 million

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

A car sharing service is exchanged between drivers and passengers. When a driver proposes a trip, the platform recommends the price per passenger based on the travelled distance. The driver is then free to lower or increase the price. It is not a non-profit platform as BlaBlaCar takes a small fee when booking a trip.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

The booking and the payment for the car sharing trip are done online, either on the website or on the mobile app. The meeting with the driver and the trip itself are then done offline.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors have the option to be either a driver or a passenger. Seniors should have basic ICT knowledge to use the website or the app.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Whether they're a driver or a passenger, seniors meet people when carpooling. It creates a unique space during a trip that allows conversations between people who would probably never have met otherwise. Therefore, sharing a trip erases barrier, creates social ties, and allows seniors to travel at reduced cost.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

A potential barrier could be the fear of travelling with total strangers. Indeed, carpooling demands a bit of trust in your driver whom you never met before.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

Connecting people from different horizons, the environmental impact, the mutual help.

5. Kiss Kiss Bank Bank

1. Name of the platform and description (include link)

KissKissBankBank is a French crowdfunding platform that allows people to get their creative, associative, or entrepreneurial projects financed by individuals.

2. What kind of platform? (website, app, forum, etc.)

Website

3. Location (country, area of activity)

France, national level

4. If possible, please indicate how many people are active on the platform

1 381 670 users registered on the platform and 20 000 funded projects since the platform's creation in 2009.

5. Is the platform professionally managed or voluntarily?

Professionally managed

6. What is exchanged? (services, goods, knowledge, assistance, time, etc.). Is it non-profit?

What is exchanged on the crowdfunding platform is money. Indeed, project initiators create a page and a campaign dedicated to their projects to raise money and get it financed. Private individuals then give a certain amount of money for the projects they like and want to support. The amount of money they donate is up to them.

There is a ton of different kinds of projects and they are sorted in categories such as: solidarity, ecology, fashion & design, music, sport, technology, film, art, books, etc. Projects are sometimes non-profit, but not always. Nevertheless, project initiators usually grant a small counterparty depending the level of financing people put on the project. For example, if someone send 15€ to finance a book, the project initiator could send a copy to the people who participated.

7. What part of the registration and participation process is online, what part is offline?

Except for the realization of the project itself, everything is done online. The project initiators advertise their projects online and the money raised goes to an online account also. When the project gets the financial it needs, the money is deblocked and the project initiators received it. They can later start their project's production, offline.

8. How can seniors engage? Any particular skill (and ICT skill) required?

Seniors have two different ways to engage on that platform:

- Either as a contributor. If they see a project they like, they can give money to it to help it get financed.
- Either as a project initiator. If they have a project idea and want to implement it, crowdfunding can be a useful option to raise money.

9. What are the benefits in terms of active ageing and social inclusion?

Contributing to a project can benefits seniors as they can feel they are a part of the project and the community, and have a rewarding sensation as they helped someone fulfil their ideal project. Also, as said before, seniors can be project initiators and use the platform to get it financed. It can be an accomplishment for seniors to see their project be realized.

10. Name potential barriers for seniors to engage on this platform

Potential barriers for seniors on this platform could be mistrust or fear. Indeed, seniors might have concerns about where their money is going and how it is going to be used afterwards. So, this platform requires a minimum of trust towards the project initiator.

11. What aspects of this platform can be pointed as a best practice?

This platform is a best practice as it allows projects of all kinds to get funded by the community, who gives what they can/want. Crowdfunding allows people to regain power over their money, their creativity, and therefore, their individual and collective destiny.

Conclusion

The platforms mentioned and analysed above show that there is a wide range of sharing economy possibilities that seniors can engage in.

In Spain, the sharing economy is an important economy system in our current realities. It's important that all the citizens and social groups feel integrated and have the opportunity to enjoy them and find benefits for their daily lives.

In Italy, sharing economy platforms that have managed to establish themselves at the National level are professionally managed while platforms managed on a voluntary basis are rather locally centred. It is due to notice that many statistics, data and contact details related to these sharing economy platforms are hardly accessible online.

In Greece, there is a variety of sharing platforms and sharing economy possibilities that seniors should be engaged with. These platforms enable older people to feel socially included and socialise with people from different ages as they are given the chance to explore events and festivals around their city. They can also share a car for their transportation or even their bike and they can also set exercise goals. They are given the chance to use modern technologies even in the case that they just need to book an appointment with a doctor.

In Slovenia, there are certain sharing economy possibilities in which seniors can be involved. By using these platforms seniors stay active, independent and mobile, meet people of all ages, take part in community life, can save money and consequently can afford more.

In France, whether seniors want to share a car, share their apartment, or even give a class, it is possible and this can be a little source of income. More importantly, these platforms enable seniors to stay active, to meet people and therefore to break the loneliness that a lot of seniors feel once they're retired.

However, in all cases, engaging in these platforms requires basic to moderate digital skills and a smartphone or a computer, thus seniors need to enhance their skills and competenciesICT skills.