

About the Project

Developing adults' key competencies by improving their socio-scientific literacy

The Erasmus+ project SSL4Adults empowers two main groups of adult education, adult educators and adult learners, to become change-makers in their communities. This allows for upgraded skills such as high-order thinking, critical thinking, and evidence-based reasoning to analyse information sources about issues in today's society.



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Introduction to the project & partners



Due to the controversial nature of socio-scientific issues, we want to support individuals to make decisions by thinking through many sources of evidence such as media, family, other people, the discourses of scientific authorities and personal justifications.

Since risk perception, misunderstanding and short-cut bias (i.e. affect heuristic) used in this process can inhibit effective decision-making we want to provide the tools for adults to understand opposing views and support their own ideas with supporting sources.



What are Socio-Scientific Issues?

Socio-scientific issues are complex questions with links to science and society, which create dilemmas and are likely to have multiple solutions. Those questions are open-ended problems which means that the answers can develop in several ways. Most of the time, such issues are personally meaningful and engaging to people who need to use evidence-based reasoning.

For example, a contemporary socio-scientific dilemma is “Should we get a COVID-19 vaccine or not?”. To respond to this issue, you can make positive and negative decisions regarding getting vaccinated, based on different things: your personal beliefs and certainties, information provided by experts, your own research, national policies, etc. To get vaccinated or to postpone the decision can be also decided depending on whether some criteria would be met.

This is a controversial social issue related to science and that highlights the application of moral and scientific reasoning to real world situations.

Socio-scientific issues are interesting because they have the potential to promote argumentation skills and critical thinking. The intent is to use debates around socio-scientific issues to provide a context for understanding scientific information as it creates a context for science learning.

Why did we start this project?

During COVID-19 lockdowns and first months of pandemic there were a lot of unclear-non-scientific posts, news across the social media as well as all WhatsApp groups. Covid-19 itself represents a socioscientific issue with many different facets and societal impacts for the countries.

Socioscientific issues are socially significant, real-world issues that are culturally important and grounded in science. Using a socioscientific issues approach to engage adults/citizens in ill-structured problems in science and health issues which we feel highly important for ourselves and for our communities.

Dr. Mehmet Demirbag from Uludag University which has been working and writing essays on that disciplines came with an idea to develop a project and raise the awareness and train low-skilled adults by using Erasmus+ as a tool for that.

Socio-scientific issues (SSI) are controversial issues that involve the concepts of science and technology and do not have definite answers (For example; Genetically modified organisms, cloning, organ transplantation, Covid 19 etc.). These issues inherently have ethical, moral, religious beliefs and values dimensions. So we would like to explore what is underlying beliefs that affects our decision-making process.



E-SENIORS

E-Seniors is a non-profit non-governmental organization, founded in 2005 in France. E-Seniors aims at fighting e-exclusion by providing access to and training in ICT to seniors and/or disabled people. Its main objectives are:

- to bridge the digital gap between generations,
- to foster seniors' social participation,
- to propose learning activities encouraging seniors to actively spend their free time.



OLEMISEN BALANSSIA RY

Olemisen Balanssia ry is a research-based organization founded in 2014 in Finland to support educational institutions, Digital Education Tools, Adult-Initiated Learning, Social-Emotional Learning and Education Internationalisation.

Olemisen provides courses and training designed to fit the needs of participants on VET education and adult education.



BURSA ULUDAG UNIVERSITESI

Bursa Uludag University, was established in Turkey in 1975 and has been successfully continuing its educational services ever since with 15 faculties, 2 colleges, 15 vocational schools, 1 conservatory, 4 institutes, 20 application and research centers and 5 departments affiliated to the rectorate.

Besides publications and research-based activities, Faculty has been carrying out projects with Osmangazi District Directorate of National Education, Bursa Governorship, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality and Public Sector. The science education department has an intense focus also in the field of adult perspective with social studies education.



POLYGONAL

Polygonal is a non-profit organisation in Italy working in the field of education and empowerment, e-learning opportunities for digital up-re-skilling, focussing much on grassroots activities embracing different sort of target groups, like seniors, minors, migrants, fragile adults and young people.

Polygonal is a youth organisation whose members are in the majority <30 years old. We have started our shared project as a hub for innovation in a rural area for young people and dis-empowered groups.



CENTRO EDUCACION PERMANENTE CEHEL



C.E.PER. Cehel is a public lifelong learning centre of the Andalusian Government in the South of Spain. 60% of the students are migrants with the necessity of learning a basic skills, second language and literacy. Currently, C.E.PER. Cehel is developing different educational plans as: Elementary Education for adults, Training for basic qualification "Secondary degree" and other educational plans for encourage an active citizenship. Socio-Scientific literacy is one the important focuses for CEPER and Andalusian Government to provide 21st skills for our adult students.

LEARNING HUB FRIESLAND

Learning Hub Friesland

We at Learning Hub Friesland, in the North of the Netherlands, never operate on our own. From our role as a true hub we like to work together with like-minded people, keen to cooperate and to help us achieve our goals: to make an active contribution to education and training innovation and together address regional challenges and ambitions with an worldly mindset. We do that in three main ways:

- course development & delivery,
- professionalisation,
- and of course by connecting people via our hub network.



SSL4ADULTS



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Kickoff Meeting

PARIS, FRANCE
14 - 15 FEBRUARY 2022

At the kick off meeting in Paris, project partners had a warm welcome from E-Seniors Isabella Ramos-Mendoza and Anémone Trysavath. The partners discussed various aspects of the project such as progress updates, project management, dissemination and quality management. Furthermore, they began planning for the Learning Teaching Training Activities.



Upcoming Events

PROGRESS MEETING
JUNE 29 - JULY 1

Polygonal will be hosting the project participants in Cori, Italy.

In this meeting we will discuss progress of the SSL4Adults project.



FOR MORE VISIT: www.ssl4adults.eu/



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