

**If you are interested in taking part,
do as follows:**

1. Fill in the pre-registration form that you can request at dipietro@lunaria.org and send it back by **mid-June at the latest**. You will receive a confirmation that your application is accepted (or in a waiting list if the number of 25 is already reached) in the shortest delay.

2. Now you can apply for a grant to take part to the course at the National Agency of the Lifelong learning programme of your country **within the 30th June 2008**. You can ask for reimbursement of travel costs, food and accommodation costs and course fee.



3. As soon as you receive a positive answer by your National Agency, (normally in two months), you will receive a request to pay for the fee and food and accommodation together with a final confirmation that the course will be held and the preparation materials.

You can find this training course in the Comenius/Grundtvig database at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/search.cfm>
with the reference number: **IT-2008-417-002**

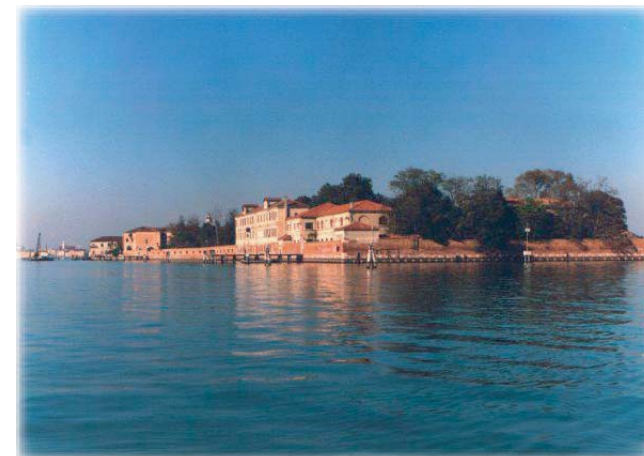
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Active Citizenship Training Initiative for Volunteers in Europe

San Servolo Island
Venice, 9 - 13 December, 2008



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

Why this course...

The aim of this course is to train staff of adult learning organizations and local governments dealing with social issues in setting up and managing transnational senior volunteers exchanges throughout Europe.

We want to promote an educational path featuring intercultural learning, personal skills development and active citizenship in a perspective of social cohesion among different cultures and different age groups.



...and how it will be carried out

The course is based on a mix of frontal sessions and methodologies developed in the informal sector, trying to seek for the maximum of interaction between the participants and the trainers and the participants themselves.

The course aims at giving practical tools to organise and manage exchanges in a sustainable way, so also a part on practical issues is going to be organised: this part will be focused on sharing experiences rather than "delivery lessons": a continuous debate will be stimulated at all times.

Contents of the training course

Creation and management of Senior volunteers exchanges

- Preparing your own organisation and local community
- The importance of E-learning: communication before departure between volunteers and hosting associations
- Placement of senior volunteers; work contents and conditions
- The strategic importance of tutors
- Other framework conditions: accommodation, meals and leisure time
- An interesting challenge: one year abroad - medium and long term voluntary service

Recognising the educational value of the experience

- The preparation of the intercultural framework
- The importance of inter-generational exchange
- Foreign language skills: learning opportunities and obstacles

The importance of networking: volunteers, associations and local governments

- Learning from the past: interesting stories from volunteers, representatives of hosting organisations and local governments
- Discussions of study cases and experiences
- Possible synergies between the local and the European level: funding opportunities and financial aspects to consider
- Visits at local projects

Background

Since the year 2001, several pilot projects of senior volunteers exchanges have been organised. More than 400 senior volunteers (i. e. 50 years old +) took part in a project abroad lasting from two weeks to two months, volunteering in favour of community based projects in the social, cultural and environmental field.



We consider volunteering abroad, including its preparatory and follow-up stages, as a full non-formal education experience. The intercultural learning process work on two ways: not only the volunteer is deepened into another culture, but also the host learns from the volunteers different points of view, different ways to perform activities and directly deal with another mentality beyond all prejudices and stereotypes. So far several voluntary service organisations, universities, local governments and research institutes took active part in these projects.