

Value Conference, 8-9 June 2011, Ankara, Turkey Workshop A 2, presentation of sub-group work „Older Volunteers as Learners“

- ⇒ our definition of “older learner/older volunteer”:
“a person aged 50+ offering free time, skills and knowledge for the good of others without being paid”
- ⇒ learning opportunities for older volunteers as learners provided by volunteer organisations:
 - mostly no special training for older volunteers, training content depending on volunteering activity, not on volunteer target group
 - but: volunteer organisations encourage older volunteers to develop new skills and competences
 - request: volunteer organisations should actively support intergenerational dialogue between younger and older volunteers/volunteer learners which would support group identity and strengthen commitment
 - example: case study Austria
- ⇒ learning opportunities for older volunteers as learners provided by universities:
 - many ULLL programmes (both degree courses and non-credit bearing general interest courses)
 - older volunteers not (yet) targetted by universities, but volunteers can make use of skills acquired via ULLL in volunteer work
 - request: volunteer organisations would appreciate learning/experience gained from volunteer work to be recognised by universities for entering degree courses
 - example: case study Slovakia
 - example: case study Germany
- ⇒ our vision:
 - the two sectors (volunteer organisations and universities) should become aware of each other and recognise and appreciate each other's work
 - they should develop joint training programmes based on the needs of older volunteers as learners
 - they should cooperate in influencing decision makers to create the right socio-political climate to strengthen and appreciate volunteer commitment