

The partnership consists of four NGOs from Ireland, Finland, Italy and Romania with extensive experience in the field of elder abuse prevention and dignified ageing. A fifth partner is The Gaiety School of Acting (the national theatre school of Ireland), a leading acting school who brings unique skills and experience in supporting community development and addressing social issues through drama workshops.

Age Action (Ireland) - Project coordinator. Age Action is a national advocacy and representative NGO for older people. Established in 1992 Age Action has over 3,000 members including individuals as well as public, private and voluntary organizations. The organisation's mission is to achieve fundamental change in the lives of all older people by representing and empowering them to live full lives as actively engaged citizens, promoting positive attitudes to ageing as well as changing ageist attitudes and securing their fundamental human rights.

Suvanto – For a Safe Old Age (Finland) - The Finnish Association For A Safe Old Age, is a national non-governmental organization founded in 1990. The goal of the association is to raise awareness among decision makers, local and national authorities, professionals and citizens on the issue of elder abuse and neglect. In addition they develop local and national strategies for the prevention of elder abuse, equip professionals and volunteers on work to encourage the prevention of abuse and empower older people and their families to live independently and safe.

Anziani e non solo (Italy) - is a NGO working since 2004 in the field of social innovation, with a specific focus on project management and the realization of services and products in the field of welfare and social inclusion. ANS provides its services all across Italy, operating in partnership with local NGOs. The activities carried out by Anziani e Non Solo mainly concern: active ageing and support to frail and dependent older people; training and support to family carers, informal and formal carers; prevention of gender based violence, elder abuse and discrimination. In the field of elder abuse, ANS provides training and counselling to formal and informal carers and volunteers and has taken part to two action-research projects on elder abuse in care relationships.

Asociatia HABILITAS Centru de Resurse si Formare Profesionala (Romania) - was established in 2007 with the aim to contribute to the development of adult professionalization. Habilitas delivers professional adult training and counselling services in social, psychological and educational projects and programs. Habilitas is currently authorized by the National Authority of Qualifications to deliver professional training for the qualification of "Home care worker" and to issue qualification certificates, EU available, focusing on training disadvantaged and unemployed persons.

The Gaiety School of Acting - is a Not for Profit organisation founded in 1986 by the internationally renowned theatre director Joe Dowling, in response to the lack of full time actor training programmes in Ireland at that time. The school is now widely regarded as the country's premier training facility for actors. Their policy is to train actors for theatre, film and television. Through a committed and dedicated staff, the school has developed and expanded to its current position where over 2000 students are involved in a wide range of courses from their intensive two year full time actor training programme to a range of courses available to students from overseas. The full time actor-training programme boasts unprecedented graduate success with their actors appearing in all of Ireland's theatres, in film and television nationally and internationally.

Further information on www.stageproject.eu



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SOCIO-DRAMA TACKLING AGEISM, PREVENTING ABUSE



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The percentage of the population, 65 years and over is estimated to increase in Europe from 16% (2010) to 25.6% by 2040. Elder abuse is a European wide issue that has the potential to impact on the lives of a growing number of people. Ways of educating older people themselves and those that provide care and support to them are hugely important if people are to lead dignified, secure and fulfilled lives as they age. A significant body of empirical evidence points to deficits in awareness, knowledge and confidence among health and social care professionals in relation to elder abuse and documents the limited provision of education and training in the area.

the project

This project applies in a practical way, for the first time we are aware of, the theory of 'generational intelligence' (Biggs, 2014). Emerging theories in explaining elder abuse within individual relationships suggest abuse occurs where there is a failure to encounter the humanity of the other. Biggs' hypothesis is that prevention needs to focus on building generational intelligence. The principle of this theory is that by recognising differences between generations, there is greater empathy amongst carers, many of whom come from different cultural backgrounds. They come to know the older person as an individual, and therefore, not only provide care to the person and but also care about them. Traditional learning opportunities focused on elder abuse may be ineffective or rejected by the target group, as abuse can be unintentional due to lack of awareness and taboo nature of topic. Hence the methodology will use creative tools including socio-drama to deliver the programme in day care centres and residential settings.

The objectives are:

- ▲ to design an education programme that will provide new learning opportunities in the field of human rights and empathy to prevent abuse;
- ▲ to empower older adults through education on human rights and the exploration of ways of safeguarding well-being;
- ▲ to foster empathy amongst formal carers by 'walking in the older person's shoes' and challenging ageism;
- ▲ to develop educators' competences on the topic;
- ▲ to input into the elder abuse policy of care settings'.

The target groups to be addressed are:

- ▲ older people attending/living in care settings, providing them with knowledge of their human rights and ways of using this knowledge to safeguard their well-being;
- ▲ formal carers, supporting them to build empathy, challenge ageism and increasing their capacity to create an environment of mutual respect, preventing elder abuse and empowering disclosure.

The transnational element of the project is also important as countries involved represent different social models but are also at different stages in the development of elder abuse policy and practices, engendering shared learning.

Project will meet common need of all EU countries to find new ways to educate, and provide older people and formal carers with the skills to protect themselves and those they care for.

aims and outcomes

The main output from the project will be the development of education programme based on the use of drama as a means of addressing sensitive topics and supporting empowerment.

To set the context, the project will produce an e-book on elder abuse reflecting the background of elder abuse from the perspective of all participating countries, constructing the theoretical background underlying the approach taken in the project. The study aims to provide examples of practices in the use of drama as a means of addressing social and cultural issues.

The project will also provide nursing home/ long term care homes/day centres with an opportunity to engage with their national organisation in developing their own elder abuse policy and protocol based on the outcome of the learning sessions.

During the project, intermediate expected results are:

- (a) an increased capacity of member organizations to have a concrete impact on elder abuse prevention at local level;
- (b) a strengthened capacity to respond to the specific needs of the target group, using socio-drama methods as an active learning activity capable of informing people of their rights and developing generational intelligence in a sensitive and not-threatening way;
- (c) an increased awareness on the impact of the quality of inter-generational relationships in the context of elder abuse