



S.T.AGE

SOCIO-DRAMA TACKLING AGEISM, PREVENTING ABUSE



Erasmus+

www.stageproject.eu

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS COURSE IN DUBLIN

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2016

Between the end of August and September 2016 the STAGE project held a training session for trainers on the “Respect to Prevent” workshop in Dublin.

The aim of the week was to equip the trainers that would pilot the programme in Ireland, Italy, Romania and Finland with the necessary skills and knowledge needed. This included familiarizing them with the workshop plan, the exercises and above all the socio-drama technique on which the training is based.

One of the sessions, led by Jackie O’Toole, a trainer in Dementia Care, was specifically dedicated to dementia awareness. This would ensure that the workshop would be delivered in a dementia-friendly way.

Supported by the trainers from the Gaiety School of Acting (Seamus Quinn, Kate Canning) all partners had the chance to practice the workshop on themselves, as participants, and then adapt it to local needs and specificities and pilot it under the supervision of the trainers.

The training was a very intense, funny and rich experience, which will be used in all four countries to pilot the workshop in residential care facilities for older persons.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN

NOVEMBER 2016

The S.T.Age partners invited experts from Ireland and abroad to discuss the rising levels of elder abuse, explore its causes and identify possible solutions, at an International Conference titled "Elder abuse, Ageism and Human Rights: Innovative Approaches", that took place on 7th November 2016 at Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin, Ireland.

After the welcome from **Patrick Sutton**, CEO Gaiety School of Acting, the conference was opened by Dr. **Marita O'Brien**, STAGE Project Coordinator. Marita gave an overview of the project and highlighted that the final goal of STAGE is to design an educational programme that will provide new learning opportunities in the field of human rights and ageism to prevent elder abuse.

Marita highlighted that the main aims of the programme are:

- to empower older people through human rights awareness education and the exploration of ways of safe-guarding well-being,
- to build capacity amongst formal carers to 'walk in the older person's shoes' and challenge ageism and
- to develop/input into the elder abuse policy of care settings.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. **Simon Biggs** from Melbourne University, Australia titled "A Generational Intelligent response to Elder Abuse and Ageism". Prof. Biggs presented his theory about Generational Intelligence (GI) that is understood as an ability to empathize with an alternative life-position and build complementary relations between oneself and others. Increasing the GI of professionals and caregivers can be an effective response to age-based discrimination and an important step towards elder abuse-prevention.

Following Professor Biggs address, the following presentations were delivered by elder abuse experts:

Dr **Amanda Phelan**, from the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems, University College Dublin, made a presentation about how the interpretation of elder abuse can differ in the context of culture.

Ioana Caciula, PhD candidate at the University of Bucharest, spoke about loneliness as a risk factor for elder abuse and how supporting

older people at risk of loneliness and social isolation, by providing social support and interaction is essential for reducing loneliness and elder abuse in old age.

Bridget Penhale, University of East Anglia, UK connected domestic violence and elder abuse explaining the triple marginalization of being an abused older women and underlining the importance of improving and extending partnerships to join up safeguarding, domestic violence and rights-based approaches.

Alicia Gomez Campos, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions presented their project on integrating a human rights-based approach to the design and delivery of long-term care.

The third part of the conference focused on how creative tools can be used to address social issues, such as elder abuse.

Dr **Tom Maguire**, from the School of Creative Arts, University of Ulster presented different artistic projects involving older persons and how arts can be used for different purposes, such as for reminiscence and advocacy, but also to increase participation and engaging older persons in the creative process of Co-creation.

Finally, **Seamus Quinn**, from the Gaiety School of Acting, presented the S.T.Age's "Respect to prevent" workshop and engaged the audience in an example of a socio-drama session.

The conference was closed by Eamon Timmins, CEO of Age Action.

All presentations are available from: <http://www.combatingelderabuse.eu/?p=611>





CONTACT

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE PARTNER IN COUNTRY IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...

■ AGE ACTION – IRELAND

E-mail: policyinclusion@ageaction.ie

■ ANZIANI E NON SOLO – ITALY

E-mail: info@anzianienonsolo.it

■ SUVANTO - FOR A SAFE OLD AGE – FINLAND

E-mail: info@sivantory.fi

■ ASOCIATIA HABILITAS – CENTRU DE RESURSE SI FORMARE PROFESIONALA – ROMANIA

E-mail: asoc.habilitas@yahoo.com

■ SINGMAN LTD GAIETY SCHOOL OF ACTING – IRELAND

Website: www.gaietyschool.com

...and to visit S.T.Age project's website: www.stageproject.eu



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