

# NEWSLETTER

1<sup>ST</sup> – JUNE 2016

## SOCIODRAMA TACKLING AGEISM, ELDER ABUSE - STAGE PROJECT



# S.T.AGE

SOCIO-DRAMA TACKLING AGEISM, PREVENTING ABUSE



Erasmus+

[www.stageproject.eu](http://www.stageproject.eu)

## S.T.AGE PROJECT

### THE CHALLENGE...

With population ageing, the percentage of populations aged 65 years and over is estimated to increase in Europe from 16% (2010) to 25.6% by 2040. According to Eurostat Statistics population projections (2011) the percentage of people aged 65 years and over will increase to 20.2% in Ireland, 25.4% in Romania, 25.5% in Finland and 29.8% in Italy by 2040. Hence 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 is hugely important and paramount 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.

**In this context, "S.T.AGE", an Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships project with a duration of 24 months (2015 – 2017), financed by the Irish National Agency Leargas,** aims to provide learning opportunities to build awareness of elder abuse and the knowledge and skills to recognise it tailored to formal carers and older people, particularly those receiving care in day centres and residential settings. In this way increase the capacity of those living/attending and working in day centres and residential care settings to act preventively and empower disclosure.

### THE BACKGROUND THEORY...

This project applies in a practical and innovative way, 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. Bigg's hypothesis is that prevention needs to focus on building generational intelligence, as a key issue of communication and understanding between different generations. By recognising differences between generations, empathy can be developed amongst carers, many with different cultural backgrounds, so they come to really know the older person as an individual from a particular generation and culture, and in this way not just provide care to the person but care about them.

### THE OBJECTIVES OF S.T.AGE PROJECT ARE...

- to design an education program that will provide new learning opportunities in the field of human rights and empathy to prevent abuse. Traditional learning opportunities explicitly focusing on elder abuse may be ineffective or refused 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 program in day care centers and residential settings.

- the empowerment of older adults through education on human rights and the exploration of ways of safeguarding well-being
- to foster empathy amongst formal carers abuse, 'to walk in older person's shoes', challenge ageism
- to develop educators' competences on the topic
- to input into care settings' elder abuse policy

### THE MAIN OUTPUT EXPECTED WILL BE...

The development of an education program based on use of drama as a means of addressing elder abuse and supporting empowerment.

### THIS PROGRAM WILL TARGET...

- older people attending/living in care settings, providing them with knowledge of their human rights and ways of using this knowledge to safe guard 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 project will also provide nursing home/ long term care homes/day centers with an opportunity to engage with their national organization in developing their own elder abuse policy and protocol based on the outcome of the learning sessions.

### THE PARTNERSHIP...

The partnership is made of four NGOs from Ireland – Age Action, Finland - Suvanto, Italy – Anziani e Non Solo, and Romania – Asociatia Habilitas – CRFP, all with long-standing experiences in the field of elder abuse prevention and dignified ageing. In addition, there is The Gaiety School of Acting (the national theatre school of Ireland), which not only is a leading acting school but can also bring its unique skills and experiences in supporting community development and addressing social issues through drama workshops.

## FIRST TRANSNATIONAL MEETING



The partnership met for the first time in Bucharest, between 21st and 23rd October 2015. During this meeting, all aspects regarding project management were discussed, project activities were set up, and the first Output of S.T.Age project, the E-Book 'Elder Abuse, Context and Theory – Finland, Ireland, Italy and Romania' was thoroughly planned.

of Acting between 29th August and 2nd September, and also the International Conference that will be organized in November in Dublin.

Partners also made presentations on human rights in Long Term Care in their countries, based on the need to name which rights to be addressed in the education program that will be developed in the S.T.Age project. For example, Finland identified dignity/autonomy and the right to know your rights, Italy identified inhuman and degrading treatment, and Ireland and Romania identified dignity as main focus of the project.

## SECOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING

On 11th and 12th May 2016, the second transnational meeting of STAGE project partners took place in Carpi, Italy. The partnership assessed the E-book already elaborated in the project – 'Elder Abuse - Context and Theory', and planned the next project steps: the Train the Trainer program in Socio-drama for preventing abuse, which will be held in Dublin by Gaiety School

You can read full presentation here: [http://www.combatingelderabuse.eu/?page\\_id=507](http://www.combatingelderabuse.eu/?page_id=507)



## THE E-BOOK 'ELDER ABUSE, CONTEXT AND THEORY – FINLAND, IRELAND, ITALY AND ROMANIA'

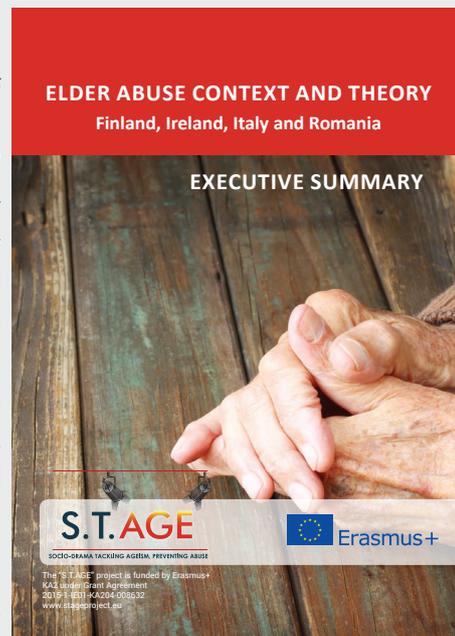
This E-book explores the topic of elder abuse from the perspective of four countries, Finland, Ireland, Italy and Romania.

'Elder Abuse, Context and Theory – Finland, Ireland, Italy and Romania' provides an overview of elder abuse from the perspective of the four countries. It explores theories associated with elder abuse and how they inform policy and responses within the four countries. The theoretical background underlying generational intelligence, the approach taken in the project, is also discussed.

The book concludes by outlining the value of sociodrama as a medium for addressing social issues. The aim of the book is to set the context and inform the development of the Respect to Prevent – Education and Training Handbook, that will be developed further in the S.T.Age project.

**The E-book is now online and can be downloaded here:**

[http://www.combatingelderabuse.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Booklet\\_stage.pdf](http://www.combatingelderabuse.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Booklet_stage.pdf)



## WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2016

**On the 15th of June 2016, Project partners have marked World Elder Abuse Awareness Day through different actions:**

■ **Age Action Ireland** has launched a new animated video to warn older people and their families of the dangers of financial elder abuse. In the coming weeks the organisation will also distribute more than 20,000 information leaflets to community centres and retirement groups around Ireland.

The initiative is part of a wider project funded by Ulster Bank to help raise awareness of the costs and risks of financial elder abuse.

The video was produced by Dublin-based animation studio, Pink Kong, and you can watch it here:

<https://www.ageaction.ie/how-we-can-help/campaigning-policy/elder-abuse/video-tackling-financial-elder-abuse>

■ In **Romania**, **Asociatia Habilitas CRFP** has organized a 5-day 'Training of Trainers' on the issue of Elder Abuse and Neglect, held by Federation 3977 – contre la maltraitance, France, part of the project 'Say NO to Elder Abuse!', financed by The Lord Michelham of Hellingly Foundation Switzerland, and published a raising-awareness article in press on elder abuse prevention: [rnews.ro/ong-abuzul-asupra-varstnicilor-o-problema-actuala-insuficient-constientizata\\_148945.html](https://www.romaniaonline.ro/ong-abuzul-asupra-varstnicilor-o-problema-actuala-insuficient-constientizata_148945.html)

■ In **Italy**, **ANS** has launched a contest named "L'età che vale – The value of ageing" aimed to award a prize to the best photo / poem / tale or drawing representing the value of older persons. The deadline to submit the works in July the 31st. See: <http://www.combatingelderabuse.eu/?p=500>

■ In **Finland**, the yearly WEEAD campaign is called Kätkeyt äänet, which translates to 'Hidden voices' in English. **Suvanto – For A Safe Old Age association** together with the national WEEAD campaign committee organized campaign events on 15 June for the 11th time in Finland. This year's campaign theme was 'Safe at home?' The main event was held in Mikkeli, Finland. In the morning a public event in shopping centre Stella was held, consisting of speeches, interviews as well as musical and dance performances. In the afternoon the campaign day continued with a panel discussion. In accordance with the campaign theme, the discussions reflected the safety of older people, concerns regarding the current trends of elderly care in Finland and ways in which agencies in the public and third sector could work with communities to prevent elder abuse and neglect. Juuri project organized a WEEAD campaign event in Oulu, Northern Finland, which consisted e.g. of various workshops, a photo exhibition with the safe home theme, stand up and musical performances. An open information event of elder abuse was also held in the main library of Tampere, Finland.

## NEXT STEPS....

- Train the Trainer event in Dublin, Ireland, between 29th August and 2nd September 2016, held by The Gaiety School of Acting
- International Conference – Elder Abuse, Ageism and Human Rights: Innovative Approach, on the 7th November 2016, in Dublin, Ireland, with the participation of Professor Simon Biggs

## CONTACT

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

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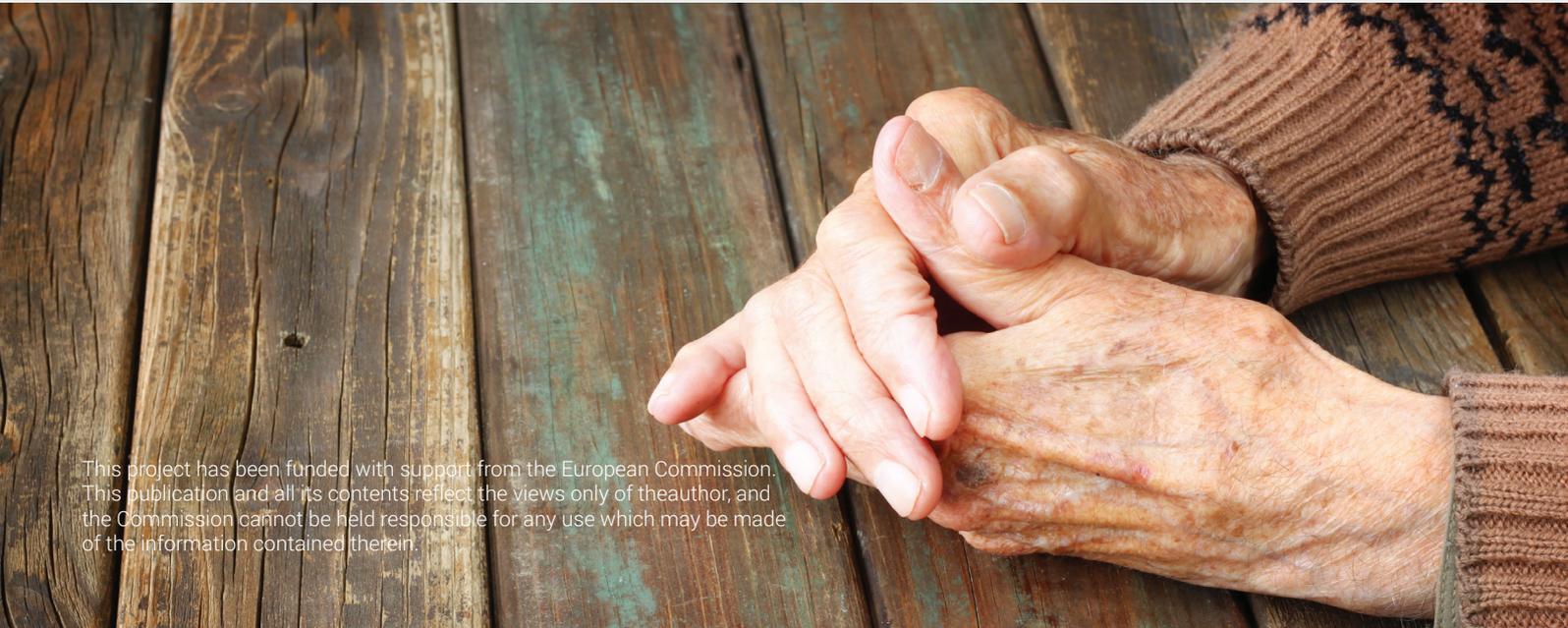
■ **ASOCIATIA HABILITAS – CENTRU DE RESURSE SI FORMARE PROFESIONALA – ROMANIA**

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Website: [www.gaietyschool.com](http://www.gaietyschool.com)

...and to visit S.T.Ageproject's website: [www.stageproject.eu](http://www.stageproject.eu)



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