

FORAGE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

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Dr. Myrto-Maria Ranga
Project Manager
50plus Hellas
www.50plus.gr

"THE KNOWLEDGE VOLUNTEERS" - TKV

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The knowledge Volunteers Project

The Partners

- **UK**- University of Edingburgh
- **Italy** – Fondazione Mondo Digitale
- **Spain** - Fundetec
- **Czech Republic** - Societatea Romana Pentru Educatie Permanenta
- **Greece** – 50plus Hellas

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The Aims of the TKV Project:

- To promote digital competence among older people at risk of exclusion through intergenerational exchange and relations with young people;
- To encourage the active participation of older people in society through voluntary activities, thus enhancing self-esteem, identity and social relations;
- To improve the production, testing, and dissemination of innovative curricula, methodologies and modules for adult learners;
- To create a network of “Knowledge volunteers” of all ages;
- To contribute to the creation of a more volunteer-friendly environment, with more people participating in volunteering activities throughout Europe, while facilitating international mobility among older volunteers;
- To develop alternative learning approaches based on a Phyrtual Environment (integration of virtual and physical activities), leading to the creation of a dynamic repository of interacting good practices in the field of formal, non-formal and informal adult learning education.

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For older people, the objectives are:

- improve their communication skills towards the younger generation
 - explain difficulties and problems,
 - ask for support etc.,
 - avoiding conflicts and misunderstandings;
- take up new role and point of view by accepting their own's and tutors' difficulties and limits and try to cope with them;
- learn to trust their young tutors and thus to acknowledge their competences, overturning the usual relationship of “authority”



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For youngsters:

- learning the teaching process complexity, which is a very powerful and crucial issue. It helps them get out of stereotypes, understanding the difficulties their teachers experience with them in class daily and how teaching can be frustrating when goals cannot be achieved.
- become aware of their own possible learning difficulties.
- learn to assume responsibility,
- work in teams with other tutors and teachers
- cooperate in achieving a common goal.



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The methodology

- Three target groups:
 - coordinators/teachers
 - older learners
 - younger tutors
- Creation of 4 teaching modules + 3 teaching guides
 - ABC of ICT
 - Social Networking
 - E-Government
 - Easy Technologies
- Organization of classes in cooperating schools (2phases)
- Case studies
- Evaluation (questionnaires)



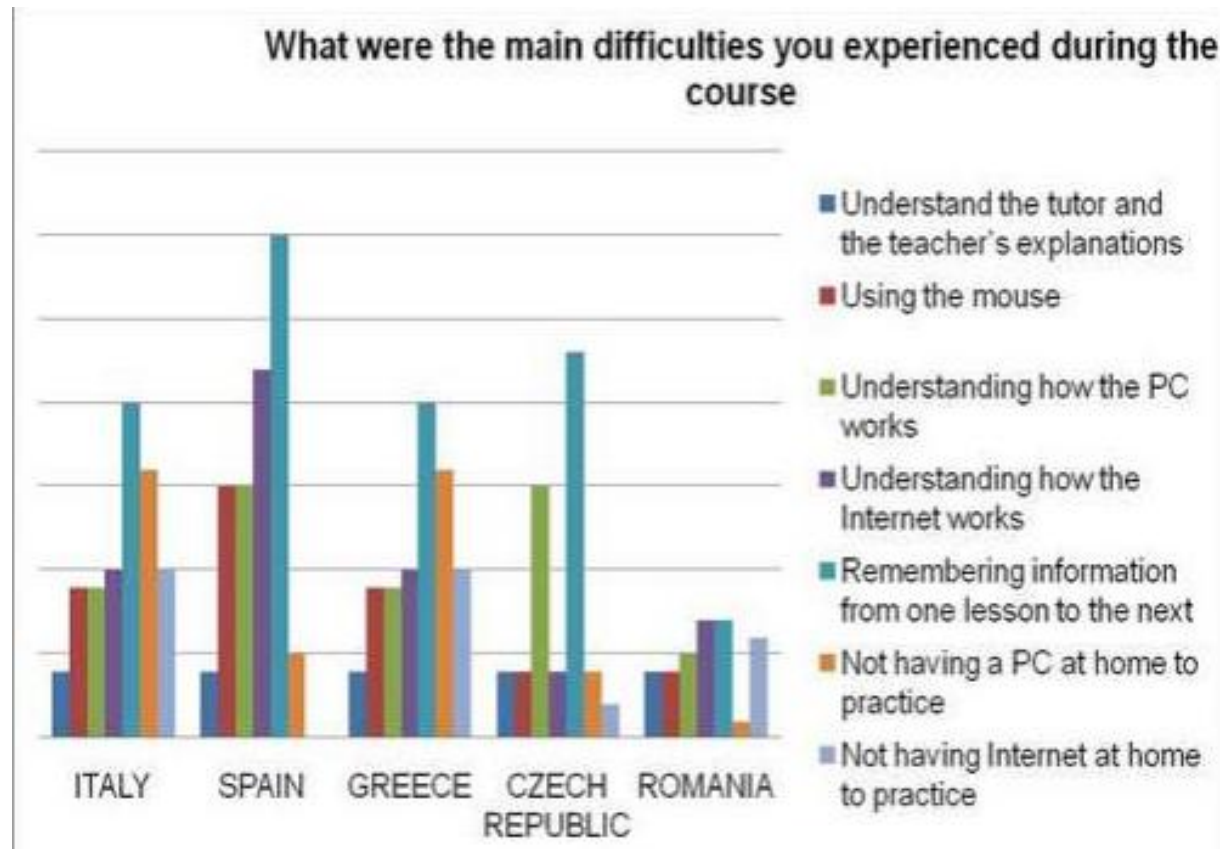
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The Teaching Curricula

- Designed to promote the awareness of the importance of learning as a lifelong learning process
- For older people: it is never too late to learn something new, especially if it is fun and entertaining as well as relevant for a better quality of life
- For young students and teachers: it shows how lifelong learning can be shaped and conducted in practice.
- Promote inter-generational dialogue

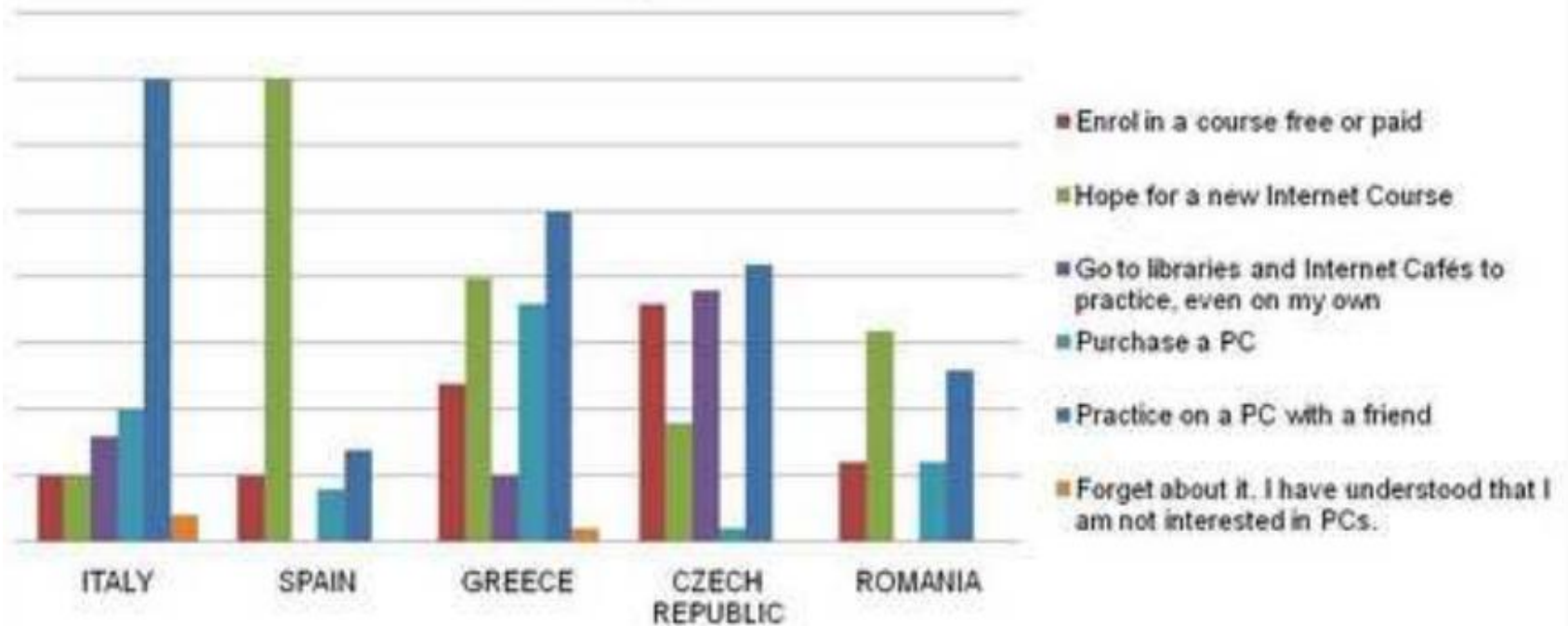


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What will you do after the course ends?



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The results of the TKV Project in Greece

- 3 areas (Athens, Thessaloniki, Tinos island)
- 6 schools
- More than 150 older learners
- More than 80 young volunteer tutors

Future effects

- 500 older learners on waiting lists
- 100s of young volunteers
- New project opportunities
- New funding opportunities

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Testimonies:

Senior learners/tutors

- Konstantinos Kosmidis (Greece)

“A fantastic experience, a really humane experience. A friendly environment, the coordinator was friendly, as well as my tutor. All the “children were good”. I name them children in brackets, because the knowledge that I gained was actually much more than I expected !”

- Marie Pillar (Spain)

“The most important thing that I am learning, is that I’ve realized that I can do something, I always thought I would not be able to.”



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- **Young tutors (Greece)**

“I was expecting it to be boring, but it was not so. You were never bored. You did not notice the age difference and it was very interesting!”

*“It was the best experience of my life!
I would be happy to do it again!
I have learnt a lot from my older students and
I have learnt a lot about myself!”*



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Good Practice Outcomes

- Volunteers of all ages as teachers/tutors creates a good, informal, friendly atmosphere
- A learning process for both seniors and young volunteers. Teaching others leads to self-knowledge and appraisal of one's own skills and competencies
- The human contact seems to reduce fear of new technologies by seniors
- Broad collaboration of actors ensures broad outreach (schools, day centers for older people, social centers, universities of the 3rd age, municipalities, ministries)
- Funding/sponsoring of such projects by a computer/software developer company can improve the resources and thus the quality of the teaching processes within the project.

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**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!**

TKV Project Website:
www.tkv.mondodigitale.org

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