

School Community Service for Silvernet

CHANGE! Good practice factsheet

Title of good practice/initiative	Image/photo of good practice/initiative
<p>School Community Service for Silvernet</p>	
Description of the good practice /initiative: history, activities, number of involved people, territorial scope, current scale, future plans, impact and benefits (Max. 400 words)	
<p>People born at the end of the 1990's and the even younger people were born into the world of digital technology, in which it is unimaginable to live without using the Internet, mobile phones and other digital and communication devices. The members of Generation Z have access to more and more information by the development and speed of communication devices. In parallel with the generation change the family model has changed as well. Today, it is more and more a rare feature that the generations live together, so the distance between them grow not only physically, but also in the field of their world views. The good practice we would like to introduce, aims to attenuate the distance between generations and digital illiteracy.</p> <p>The Municipality of Nagykanizsa and the Senior Citizens Council announced the „Silvernet Kanizsa” program under the LX + Digital Equality Program that offered 10x3 lessons computer training. They also offered the "Introduction to English language" training program that contained 10x3 language lessons as part of the Senior Community Development Program in the fall of 2014. The Senior Citizens Council concluded a cooperation agreement with the partners and started its recruiting activity among seniors who wanted to learn and young people who wanted to try themselves as teachers. Nearly 200 pensioners took part in the program, studying in 16 groups in three different high schools taught by 26 students. The teachers from the education institutions prepared the students for the task and they can also keep in touch community service. The tasks carried out during community service activity / activities) means something that serves the benefit of the local community. The students- based on the consultation with their teachers and parents- can choose one of the activities organized by the school or they can even propose other activities too, but they must be approved by the school. The aim of the social service is the community sensitization and the education for socially responsible behaviour. The Silvernet program builds a bridge between the young students and the older generations. The benefits and the positive impact of the program are as follows: the teaching young people felt motivated about spending their time serving a noble cause, they could give useful knowledge to their 'senior students' who were very grateful. The retirees said that they have learned a lot of useful things that will help to enrich their everyday life (sending emails, using facebook, reading online news, using Skype... - therefore they can also keep in touch with their grandchildren, relatives and friends).</p>	

Brief description of how the specific local public service has been challenged (with figures, if possible)

The program aims to sensitize young students socially and to develop the digital literacy of seniors. This way the program supports digital equal opportunities, as well as senior community development by the group activities carried out during the trainings. The success of the program was confirmed by the very positive feedback received from both the student instructors and the retired people participating in the program. The first training began in the fall of 2014 and since then, trainings are regularly organized in the autumn and spring semesters (in IT, English and German languages).

Beyond learning, the program has provided opportunities for the two generations to get to better know each other and the values represented by their age groups. The bridge has linked the two generations by the end of the course and friendships were formed.

Role of the municipality within the process (e.g. how the municipality facilitates or coordinates the process to systematise/upscale a civic initiative)

The government initiated launching this program in 2014. The Council of Senior Citizens is the coordinator of the program. They are responsible for the information processes, developing partnerships with the stakeholders, liaising with stakeholders, monitoring the conduct of community service, inviting the stakeholders for consultation and evaluation semi-annually and informing the City Council about the processes.

Budget (in total and municipality's own contribution)

In the program the participants took part on a voluntary basis. The coordinator is a local government employee so the local government has covered his costs (as municipal contributions).

Key attributes (success factors) enabling (municipal) staff to implement the project successfully

Stakeholders' openness for cooperation, the effective communication toward stakeholders, the motivated and satisfied participants. The program actually targeted a "gap" area (the development of the retired residents' digital literacy), which was timely and useful.

Links to website for further information on the good practice/initiative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnvEdjQD-Mc>