



Newsletter N°3 – June 2017

The basic objective of SILVER WORKERS project is to improve the knowledge, skills, competences and working tools in order to make silver workers able to give birth to a new business, putting into practice their creativity, their ideas and their hobbies

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The Third Newsletter of the Silver Workers Project

This is the third Newsletter of the Silver Workers, a three-year project co-financed by the European Commission in the Framework of the Erasmus + Programme, KA2 Strategic

Editorial: Silver Workers is ready for the training

The Silver Workers project is successfully progressing in accordance to the planning. On the base of the surveys performed during the first period to identify the need of 50+ in the EU, a complete set of training modules has been prepared, quality tested and declared ready for use. Next step is now the identification the potential beneficiaries among European Silver Workers and a call will be soon issued to this aim.

A massive informative action to make this call more visible as possible will start soon and a consequent selection of application will be then performed. Silver Workers moves forward with flying colours!

Partnership in the field of Vocational Education and Training.



Why the work of Silver Workers is so important for the entire EU society

The promotion of entrepreneurship among Silver Workers is extremely important for the entire economic ecosystem in the EU.

The possibility of returning to work with an activity giving a sure income, in some cases additional to pension rates, and the personal satisfaction in being still dynamic, either in a full or part time form, can make a considerable difference for many 50+ ex-employees.



Also, the perspective to engage themselves into something new and different offering stimulating new occasions to meet others, enjoy an additional income and an improved hour flexibility can be particularly attracting for EU Silver Workers.

The beneficial effect that ignited by the return of 50+ to work can be also related to the potential creation of new jobs with more skilled and trained workers. As a matter of

fact, the skills and the experience of older workers can be used in training younger staff and transmit to them all skills which contribute to shorten their learning curve.

In general, Silver Workers back at work in their additional role of mentors and coaches, other than direct entrepreneurs, can only help younger generations in the EU.

Highlight on the UK: self-employment for Silver Workers is the key

As a result of increased life expectancy, improved health and lower fertility rates the UK has an ageing population that is predicted to lead to a shrinking workforce. During 2014, the average age of the population exceeded 40 years for the first time. By 2040, nearly one in seven people is projected to be aged over 75 and this will have a major effect on the UK in terms of the affordability of health, social care and pensions. It is predicted by the Office for Budget Responsibility the total public spending excluding interest payments will increase from 33.6% to 37.8% of GDP between 2019/20 and 2064/65 which is the equivalent to £79 billion in today's terms as a result of increased spending on health and long-term care— due mainly to the ageing population. As a result, the productivity and economic success of the UK will be increasingly tied to



the issue of older workers. Enabling people to work for longer will allow society to support a growing number of dependents, while providing individuals with the financial and mental resources needed for increasingly long and healthy retirements.

To address this issue the Government recently published its Fuller Working Lives Strategy in order to increase the number of older workers. The report highlights the need for businesses to `retain, retrain and recruit` older workers so they can either continue in their existing career or take a new direction.



We therefore need employers to support a multigenerational workforce maximising the opportunities for older workers, and secondly, we need to support older workers to take a new direction or for those unemployed returning to work.

This is where self-employment can offer a more flexible form of working, that may allow older people to stay in work for longer.

Self-employment is at its highest rate in the UK at any point over the past 40 years; 4.6 million people were self-employed in their main job in 2014 accounting for 15% of those in work with one of the reasons being the result of the increase in the state pension age. Self-employment amongst those over 55 has doubled from 241,000 in 2009 to 428,000 in 2014.

Moreover, the age profile of self-employed people tends to be older than employees are, with 43% of those recorded as self-employed are over the aged 50 compared to 27%, for employees. Age UK says that older workers are more likely to have a higher chance of success with over 70 per cent of these businesses lasting over five years compared to only 28 per cent set up by younger entrepreneurs.

What we have done recently

The last six months of implementation of the Silver Workers project have seen the production the complete set of training modules based on the definition of the learning objectives and on the specific subjects as from the analysis of the beneficiaries' needs performed in the winter period. These modules will constitute the basis of a course which will enable 50+ acquire new professional skills and technical knowledge. This formative tool has been



conceived to fill the present gaps in the labour market and in productive sectors previously identified by projects' field researches in all countries

Silver Workers IV Consortium Meeting in Stoke

The fourth project's Consortium meeting took place in Stoke-on-Trent, UK on 4th – 5th March 2017 hosted by project partner Staffordshire University.

VICES, coordinator of this project, introduced the current state of development of Silver Workers project, specifically in relation to the Interim Reporting phase, which was duly completed and the report delivered within the deadline of 31st March 2017.



Eurocrea Merchant delivered a presentation on the 18-month quality assessment, whose results will be completed with the survey realized with partners at the end of this meeting and then published. The general results of the quality reports showed that the partners have an increasingly clear

understanding of the objectives and mutual responsibilities for the implementation of project actions.

Staffordshire University delivered a presentation on the planned activities and state of implementation for realisation of final version of the Intellectual Output 2. A brief presentation of the agreed curriculum including modules and units was discussed. After the definition of work organisation to finalize Intellectual Output 2, a brief roundtable discussion about the experimentation and organisation of pilot was performed. Partners agreed that within the flexible definition of pilot given in the project, i.e. 40 hours of training in blended modality, partners can arrange accordingly to the target group identified and related characteristics, a different mixture of face-to-face interventions and on-line activities.

Dissemination and organisation of Multiplier Events have been eventually discussed among participants and some improvements to both activities have been decided.

Silver Workers partners agreed on the date of the next international project meeting, to be held on 24th – 25th of October 2017 in Porto (Portugal). Another final consortium meeting is expected in Rome in March 2018.



Our Project Team:



VISES ONLUS(coordinator)

www.vises.it

Monica Pierucci silverworkers.vises@gmail.com



Sistemi Formativi Confindustria

www.sfc.it

Stefano Arciprete s.arciprete@confindustria.eu



Unione Italiana del Lavoro

www.uil.it

Massimo Di Pietro m.dipietro@uil.it



Eurocrea Merchant

www.eurocreamerchant.it

Silvia Farina silvia.farina@eurocrea.it



Fundecyt PCTEX

www.fundecyt-pctex.es

María Gracia Benítez Jaramillo

gracia.benitez@fundecyt-pctex.es



European Business Network

www.ebn.be

Robert Sanders rsa@ebn.eu



Staffordshire University

www.staffs.ac.uk

Jon Fairburn jon.fairburn@staffs.ac.uk



Sociedad Portuguesa de Inovacao

www.spi.pt

Isabel Morais isabelmorais@spi.pt

Stay tuned and find o

Website:

<http://www.silverwor>

Facebookpage:

@silverworkers

Twitter:

#silverworkers

Get in touch

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