
>> **RIVER: Recognition of Intergenerational Volunteering Experiences and Results**



2011 was the “European Year of Volunteering”, following the current demographic trend, the European Commission designated 2012 as the “European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity”.

The Project **RIVER** combines these two topics in focusing on senior volunteering activities and their impact on individual learning and competence development.

Promoting active-ageing senior volunteering has an invaluable effect on our societies. Given the demographic trend and the increasing number of elderly people in Europe, it is even more crucial to create opportunities for elderly to stay active. Senior volunteering brings generations together and creates benefits for both the volunteers and the organisations involved. Apart from this it provides new learning opportunities and contributes to ones well-being and private life balance.

Senior volunteering can be seen as a way of informal learning and provides organisations with volunteers who have acquired extensive knowledge and experience over a lifetime period. Yet reliable and convincing methodologies for the assessment and validation of the impact and outcomes of senior volunteering are missing.

>> **RIVER project launched**

RIVER: Recognition of Intergenerational volunteering Experiences and Results

is a transnational project funded by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme.



By developing a tailor-made competence assessment system, the project RIVER aims at making learning outcomes of senior volunteering visible and thus add to senior volunteers' motivation and sense of achievement.

RIVER will apply the **LEVEL5 approach** for assessing and validating competencies acquired in informal learning settings to the specific requirements of the volunteering sector.

The RIVER consortium is led by *die Berater*[®], (AT) and is a mixed partnership which includes partners from 5 European countries (AT, DE, IT, HU, FI). It unites the complementary expertise of organisations and networks in the voluntary sector as well as adult education providers in the cooperation.

RIVER started in January 2012 and will be terminated in December 2013.

>> River Website

Information on the ongoing project activities will be distributed in due course through following project newsletters and on the project website:

www.river-project.eu



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