



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



GRUNDTVIG

# Success Stories

EUROPE CREATES OPPORTUNITIES



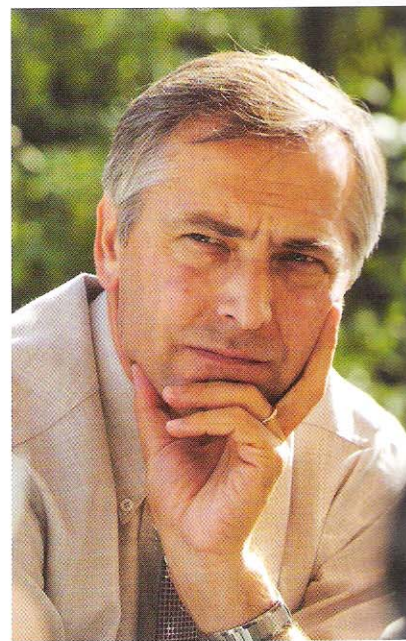
## Grundtvig: Keep on learning

Europe is undergoing a major transformation. Knowledge and the innovation it sparks are its most valuable assets in today's world economy. Lifelong learning and the accessibility and quality of Europe's education and training systems play a decisive role in the ambitious goal of transforming the EU into a dynamic, knowledge-based economy.

Lifelong learning requires many fundamental skills: the ability to pursue and continue learning and to organise one's own learning process. Basic skills such as literacy, numeracy and ICT skills are needed in order to assess, gain, process and assimilate new knowledge and skills. European citizens also face new challenges: language skills and multicultural competences are becoming more important on the European labour market and in European societies which are made up of a wide variety of traditions and cultures. New technologies change work processes and require additional skills. Traditional family patterns are called into question and the "ageing society" also creates new challenges.

The *Grundtvig* programme addresses the teaching and learning needs of those involved in adult education; it aims to provide new learning opportunities for all especially for adults at risk of social exclusion and for older workers. It brings together learners, teachers and organisations in adult education and enables them to exchange experiences, learn from each other and develop new approaches in adult education.

This brochure presents 20 multilateral projects and Learning Partnerships as examples of best practice. I invite all those active in adult education in Europe to draw upon these examples as a rich source of inspiration for their Grundtvig activities in the new Lifelong Learning Programme.



**Ján Figel'**

*Member of the European  
Commission responsible for  
Education, Training, Culture and  
Youth*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jan Figel'". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the first letter.

# Twinning the elderly disadvantaged and disabled with the young by enabling active reminiscence

Intergenerational learning offers benefits for all generations involved. The Grundtvig Learning partnership TEDDYBEAR involved older people (50+) from all sectors of the community, including those who were disadvantaged or suffering from disadvantages or mild dementia/Alzheimer. They were invited to share their life stories with young children in primary schools, between 6 and 12 years old.

The partner institutions from Italy, the UK, Finland and Slovenia selected issues affecting both groups - the disadvantaged adults and the children - and managed to ease the interaction between them. They discussed questions related to food, celebrations, crafts, games and historical events. The seniors encouraged the children to respond to their life stories with questions and by producing creative work such as artwork, plays or written text. Due to the children's response and interest the adults felt motivated to "translate" their experiences into a language suitable for children.

In return the children helped them to acquire new skills like using the Internet and playing new games. While the adults acquired IT skills, more self-confidence and self-esteem, the children enriched their knowledge of the history and the social changes in their community.

The impact the project had on all participants and the local community was extremely positive: the Learning Partnership encouraged the whole community to adopt a caring approach to its senior citizens thus improving the overall quality of life. It led to a better integration of the elderly disadvantaged and disabled people, which felt more motivated to start learning again and play a more active role in their community.

The concept of TEDDYBEAR project enriched the methods and techniques used by the partner organisations. It received wide attention from other institutions.



## TEDDYBEAR – Twinning the elderly disadvantaged and disabled with the young by enabling active reminiscence

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