

My Community 2020

DEVELOPING ADULTS' DIGITAL SKILLS TO CREATE THE LOCAL HISTORY OF TOMORROW TODAY

In this issue

What is "My Community 2020?"

Partners and targets of the project

Let's start!

What about the next steps?

What is "My Community 2020"?

How can technology be linked to a community's local heritage and history so that individuals become more active as a citizen?

The answer is **My Community 2020**, the European project developed within the Erasmus Plus programme and implemented by a consortium of 7 partners coming from all over Europe, namely Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Spain and United-Kingdom.

The project, which started in November 2018 and that will last for 2 years until October 2020, aims to develop the digital skills of adults facing disadvantage and social isolation, while allowing them to contribute to local heritage and history.

How? By creating learning opportunities, at the same time providing a space for partners staff, trainers, volunteers, local media, cultural heritage organisations and adults learners, to benefit from an intercultural dialogue opportunity. Collectively, we will create over 100 short stories which through publishing on an online platform will create the history of tomorrow today.

Are you curious to know more about the project and how you can get involved in? Keep reading, we will tell you a little more!

What are the needs identified by the project?

The project addresses topics that have been identified as priorities at national and European level. In the future, 9 out of 10 jobs will require digital skills. At the same time, 169 million Europeans between 16 and 74 years – 44% – do not have basic digital skills. 38% of companies report that the lack of digital skills has negative impacts on employee effectiveness, such as loss of productivity. In order to demonstrate how digital skills can add value to quality of life, My Community 2020 proposes to develop a training course involving learning by doing.

Why take an interest in the cultural and historical heritage of our communities? Cultural and historical heritage defines and creates a sense of belonging that we find not only in literature, art and objects, but also in the techniques transmitted to us or in the stories we tell. It allows us to understand the past and build our future. Which is why the project have commenced in 2018, the European Year of Cultural Heritage and it have included partners who have European Capital of Culture during the lifetime of the project: My Community 2020 becomes the opportunity to strengthen the sense of belonging of citizens to a common cultural space, which is not only local, but also European.



> Partners and targets of the project

My Community 2020 brings together **seven partners** with relevant expertise in European programs and able to make an important contribution in the areas covered by the project.

The partners are:

- **Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service LDT**, United Kingdom
- **Magenta Consultoria Projects SL**, Spain
- **Pistes-Solidaires**, France
- **Gulbenes novada pašvaldība**, Latvia
- **CATRO Bulgaria**, Bulgaria
- **Exchange House Ireland**, Ireland
- **EURO-NET**, Italy

The consortium had previously established valuable working relationships in other projects and wanted at the same time to build a new working relationship with the Spanish partner. The partners come from across sectors, Public and private sector, NGO's.

Among the partners, Bulgaria, Italy and Ireland have European Capitals of Culture during the lifetime of the project, namely Plovdiv (BG) and Matera (IT) in 2019 and Galway (IE) in 2020.

The project specifically targets adults with low levels of digital skills, unemployed or economically inactive, or who are or have been facing deprivation and barriers in their lives. Local media, historians, as well as local cultural and historical heritage actors will also be involved in the implementation and dissemination of the project.



> Let's start!

The 17th and 18th of December 2018 a cold, but very hospitable Potenza, the city where EURO-NET, the Italian partner is based, hosted the kick-off meeting of the project. Strategies, tasks, opportunities, and all the practical aspects have been discussed and defined to ensure the successful implementation of the project in the following months. And all this, under the supervision of Dacorum CVS (UK) that is the manager of the project at the European level.

The meeting took place in a pleasant and very collaborative atmosphere, especially as it was the opportunity for the partners to meet, to get to know each other (for some of them) and to discover some of the cuisines of the region.

> What about the next steps?

During the first year, we will work on the design and the implementation of the course "Digital Skills to Create Local History", with modules covering storytelling, local history, interview techniques, local media and recording/editing digital recordings. In October, trainers from each partner country will meet at Dacorum CVS, in Hertfordshire, in order to study and to test the content of the training. The website is in the developing phase and you will be able to visit the website by next newsletter where we will be sharing what we will be producing during the project. The platform where 105 stories will be uploaded will also be part of this project, Keep a look out!

