Annex 1

**NATIONAL REPORT ON PILOTING IO3**

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| 1. Partner organization
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| NGO Grannies.lv (Vecmāmiņas.lv) from LATVIA  |
| 1. Date, Country
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| 31.10.2022. LATVIA |
| 1. Overview of the participants the target group: their age, occupation, involvement in older people’s organizations (U3A, pensioners’ club, local community, etc. previous experience in volunteering activities/ programs, (for how long), previous experience in life-long learning activities/ programs (for how long).
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| In Latvia the piloting of IO 3 results was carried out in 2 steps – evaluation done by organization that works in adult field – Culture and Education studio Talent City, on October 31st, 2022, and individual experts by interviewing them and asking to write expert’s opinion during October- November 2022. In total we involved 15 individual experts and 2 organizations, from Garkalne local community and from Cēsis pensioners club . All of them either still active pensioners or adult trainers. Very few of them have had previous experience in volunteering activities themselves, at least not in organized way or programmes, but all had some experience in non-formal learning and teaching or projects. We did not ask age, but age groups were 40 to 50 for educators and over 55 + for seniors who participated in piloting. Each Module was also evaluated by points from 1 to 5. As written evaluation report takes more time, we asked some individual educators to hand in a written evaluation. In Tallin during the Erasmus Plus seminar we had an depth-in interview with adult educator from Balvi NGO “Twin Houses” Marita Deņisova. Also the IT expert evaluated the home page of the project and the home page of our NGO Grannies.lv where we place all the information about project activities. Valuable opinion is from Valmiera Culture House expert Gita Krūkle as they might use our Senior Award system in culture house daily work by recruiting more volunteers for cultural activities. As an award they have promised free access to cultural events for their volunteers. We followed the Instructions for Piloting prepared together by partnership. We did not pilot Curriculum as it was not ready yet and was not translated. It was piloted and evaluated later in November by expert Elza Laurinoviča who is lecturer at Culture Academy of Latvia.  |
| 1. Describe the implementation of the testing activity (venue, duration, challenges)
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| We had chosen a rather strange date for piloting activity in Garkalne, October 31st, 2022, Halloween night, because that was the date when the organization was occupied in organizing a Halloween event. Therefore some pictures mught seem strange, but otherwise the activity was very formal and serious. We used the premises of Garkalne local library. The challenge was to get the group together for introduction session ad getting to know the products, like Handbook, and decide which modules to evaluate, or the programme in total. The choice was that of the participants. Many of them really wanted to express their opinion. We have summarized all of the opinions, but also left individual remarks. In general the Senior Award programme was highly evaluated because volunteering should be guided by adult educators and someone should be responsible for the volunteering process in organization. Culture and Education Studio Talent City is planning to organize a similar event in year 2023 therefore lots of volunteers will be needed again. The event attracted about 500 people, the number of volunteers this year was 10. Next year they might need about 20 -25 volunteers. They will use Senior Award programme to say thank you to their volunteers after the event. With medals and certification.  |
| 1. Summarized comments and recommendations for improvement of the modules
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| The participants of piloting activity in Latvia have provided their feedback on how the Manual can be used and can be improved or adjusted to local needs. Talent City, Culture and Education Studio, experts opinions on IO 3 and Senior Award programme – 31.10.2022. We at the Association have familiarised ourselves with the project and the materials created within the project. We like the collection of materials that has been developed - the Home page, the research, the Resource Library, the videos and the written experiences. It is all publicly available. We tested and will use the Handbook and both the exercises, the icebreakers and the theoretical material. We plan to conduct 4 training sessions, for each chapter of the Handbook - Module. The materials developed in the project will be available for several years. We will ( and already have) learn how to motivate seniors to volunteer. We also hope that these volunteers will become members of the society. At the moment we have only 2 senior volunteers. In the future 1 mentor - an adult educator - will be appointed to work on volunteer recruitment and this programme. We are planning to involve 8 senior volunteers who will help us to organise 2 public events in 2023 - Easter and Halloween in Garkalne. We have already managed to set up a working group. 10 questionnaires with evaluation and feedback were received. In the long term, this programme will help us to communicate with the public using the knowledge gained. We will use all the recommendations and suggestions made in the project. New experiences. New knowledge and skills. We will also disseminate information about good practice examples to the Garkalne Library, the Garkalne Ladies Club "Pīlādzītis"(leader Brigita Taučkele) and the Calligraphy Society ( leader Dina Jansone). Evaluated by the association Cesis Pensioners' Society in cooperation with Valmiera City Pensioners' Society, 14.11.2022.A great benefit is that inactive seniors will become more active by taking this opportunity to become participants of the Senior Award Programme. Seniors will have the confidence that they can and will be useful to others and be a role model for other seniors. The Senior Awards programme also promotes meaningful and quality leisure time, by participating in the programme seniors become more responsible and conscientious, their ability to adapt and even accept different points of view improves. Factors that limit social inclusion are reduced. Motivation, self-esteem, tolerance and empathy are increased. Above all, new skills have been acquired - how to speak to seniors, how to explain to them the need to be active, to engage in teamwork. We are cooperating with the Cesis City Social Service, and we will also introduce them to this valuable and interesting Senior Awards programme. Many social workers also do additional voluntary work. The programme will help to strengthen the seniors' sense of belonging to their local community. The participants gained information and skills that will enable them to develop themselves further. We very much welcome the opportunity to study the Handbook individually, at your own time, and to do the Self-Study/Reflection exercises. This gives good feedback and gives us the confidence that the knowledge we have acquired is sufficient and that we will be able to build a great team of volunteers in our organisation in the long term. I like that it is possible to set individual learning goals, to monitor and evaluate your achievements regularly. Several tasks allow you to express yourself creatively and discover new values. We have become more confident. We also learnt how to organise group work using the "World cafe" method. In small groups of 5 people and how to present the results of your group work using the "museum walk" method. We really enjoyed the video stories where the senior volunteers themselves from different countries talked about their experiences and what motivated them to get involved in this Senior Awards programme. We would also like to conduct similar interviews with our own volunteers. **Individual experts****LIJA CIRULE -** I am studying the Handbook for Adult Educators. The topics are very well organised, interesting, inquiry-oriented and meaningful. It was also useful to revise existing knowledge on motivation of seniors. Especially for seniors, there may be times when they do not have enough motivation or skills or ideas. The opportunity to further develop one's professional competence is a great benefit.**Marita Denisova** (in Tallinn, Sept.15,2022) -Very valuable methodological material. It will be useful for those organisations that seriously want to involve senior volunteers. Our association Twin Houses is interested in how to attract volunteers and motivate them to become neighbourhood guides. We are developing tourism for seniors and we have visitors from other EU countries. We are looking for volunteers, we can train them to become tour guides and show them around the neighbourhood, also in their own cars. It is important to think about how to value their efforts. We will be happy to give out medals for the time they put in. I support this GGA programme.**Agrita Balcere -** Recommendations - descriptive evaluations. Discussions with seniors - several times a year. A lot depends on each individual senior. If you can't change the system, change the environment around you. Suggestions - step by step instruction sheet on what to teach, what to do, how to run a Senior Awards programme.**Rated by Daina Bojāre .** During the event we received theoretical explanations and got to know the Senior Awards programme in practice. I tried to get to know the Senior Awards programme by following the steps. The stories of the Senior Awards are a source of inspiration for other seniors. I learnt the latest theory and gained unique practical experience. I enjoyed searching and finding useful applications for my future work as a teacher, that of working with adults and especially with seniors. I have been enriched with an invaluable understanding of the importance and contribution of senior volunteering to society.**ELZA LAURINOVIČA** - **evaluation of the Curriculum (CURRICULUM) - 18.11.2022.** The curriculum is designed in a clear, qualitative way. The number of hours for each Module is determined. Useful topics for adult educators. I recommend to put the programme into practice in different educational institutions. |
| 1. Photos of the events (if possible)
2. We have attached photos and List of experts and Agenda for piloting of IO 3 in Latvia.

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