Go Get Award
Empowering Senior Volunteerism

Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

GGA Newsletter No 4?

Starting on the 24th of August Europeans from five countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, and The Netherlands) participated in a Short-Term Training event in the Hague.

The aim of this Short-term training event was to train adult educators to become trainers /mentors/ learning facilitators promoting and implementing *the Senior Award Program* in their respective countries. The Short-Term event was carried out according to the programme, prepared by the host partner - S.A.F.E. projects.

»The united force« of the participants

It involved work with the project publications, but also valuable experiential learning during visits to volunteer host organizations in the Netherlands. The programme focused on getting familiar with relevant statistics, project results, and volunteering traditions in the Netherlands. The participants in the event were all adult educators -practitioners. They work as mentors of older adults in U3As, libraries, local community centers, cultural centers, adult education centers, also, NGOs. During the training event, they were welcomed by three large Dutch organizations working with volunteers. PEP den Haag – an advisory and consultancy institution in volunteering. PEP den Haag also runs an Academy.

Welcomed by PEP den Haag

Moreover, one of the most active volunteering organizations Welkin Scheveningen Wink- en dienstencentrum Het Couperus introduced the participants to their volunteering activities. Informal discussions continued outdoors in the garden. The development of volunteering traditions through history was discussed in Stichting Present den Haag. The Dutch volunteering has one of the longest traditions (building solidarity and community) the participants appreciated

being presented with historical aspects of these social activities.

During the Short-term learning event, the participants gained and consolidated their knowledge and skills related to how to work with older adults and develop their volunteering mindset.

The working language was English. However, S.A.F.E. Projects supported the participants who needed its translation. The participants were improving their language skills by reading the project publications and participating in the workshops and round table discussions. The participants appreciated, having had an insight into the Dutch volunteering practices

Johannes Vermeer. Girl with the pearl earring 1665. Mauritshuis Museum the Haague.

Cultural activities were organized as well – participants visited the Mauritshuis Museum, and admired Rembrandt van Rijn, and Johannes Vermeer's works. Though most of the participants were familiar with some of the exhibited paintings, seeing them in real (Girl with the pearl earring (Johannes Vermeer, 1665) looking in the girl's eyes was like talking to her and the painter.

In the evening the participants walked along the Scheveningen Promenade and tried real Dutch haring, kabeljouw.

They were granted mobility passes and, of course, certificates of attendance

Evaluation

If you participated in the Short-Term Event in the Hague, please contribute to the following survey.
Thank you.

https://forms.gle/HdQBvjbM3RDpTbpB8

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