

Project partners

BUPNET

BUPNET
Germany
www.bupnet.de



CSVnet
Italy
www.csvnet.it



Forschungsinstitut des Roten Kreuzes
Austria
www.frk.or.at



Kamut
Finland
www.kansallisetmaahanmuuttajat.fi



LUNARIA
Italy
www.lunaria.org



Alliance of European Voluntary
Service Organisations
Denmark
www.alliance-network.eu



Budapest Cultural Centre
Hungary
www.bmknet.hu

Project coordinator

MMag. Maren Satke



dieBerater®
Wipplingerstraße 32/23–26
1010 Vienna / Austria
Tel: +43 1 532 45 45-1156
Fax: +43 1 532 45 45-1145
m.satke@dieberater.com
www.dieberater.eu

www.river-project.eu



Lifelong Learning Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Recognition of Inter- generational Volunteering Experiences and Results





RIVER – Recognition of Intergenerational Volunteering Experiences and Results

Promoting active-aging 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. Volunteer settings provide new learning opportunities and contribute to one's well-being and private life balance. Senior volunteering as a way of informal learning provides organisations with volunteers who have acquired extensive knowledge and experience over a lifetime period.

Senior volunteering plays a key role in our society, and demands exposure and recognition! Yet reliable and convincing methodologies for the assessment and validation of the impact and outcomes of senior volunteering are missing.

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.

Target groups

The main target groups of the RIVER project are:

- Voluntary organisations which organise senior volunteering activities
- Adult education organisations which already work or may work in the future with senior learners
- Umbrella organisations of the two mentioned types of institutions which can act as multipliers
- Decision-makers in local, national and European authorities which (might) provide funding for senior volunteering

The final beneficiaries of the RIVER project activities are senior volunteers.

Aims of the RIVER project

RIVER aims at

- making the learning benefits of senior volunteering activities visible;
- developing and testing a planning and validation system for senior volunteering
- providing and improving learning opportunities for the increasing number of senior citizens in Europe;
- motivating older people to engage in senior volunteering as a learning experience;
- promoting intergenerational learning.

The overall aim of RIVER will be to adapt LEVEL 5 – a methodology for assessing and validating competencies acquired in informal learning settings – to the specific requirements of the volunteering sector. In RIVER the LEVEL 5 system will not only be further improved but also transformed into a comprehensive methodology for

- defining personal aims of senior volunteering activities;
- planning senior volunteering activities accordingly;
- evaluating their impact on senior volunteers and on the beneficiaries of volunteering activities.

RIVER project activities

The main activities of the RIVER project between January 2012 and December 2013 are:

Investigating key results of previous EU-projects on LEVEL 5 and senior volunteering

Organising an internal workshop on LEVEL 5

Developing the RIVER methodology for senior volunteering based on LEVEL 5

Organising a two-day workshop on the RIVER methodology for volunteering facilitators

Piloting the RIVER methodology in the partner countries

Developing the final design of the RIVER methodology based on the results of piloting

Producing a promotional brochure on informal learning in intergenerational volunteering activities

Presenting the RIVER project at European events

www.river-project.eu