

NewsLETTER #4

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BUILDING A DIGITAL AGE-FRIENDLY LEARNING COMMUNITY

29/06/2024

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Building digital bridges - a comprehensive DIGIT-GERA guide for senior educators

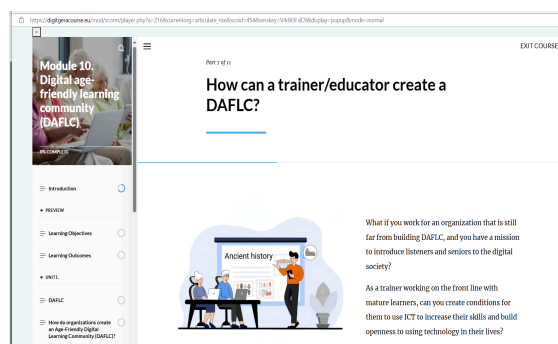
For the past 2 years, we have been working on the concept of a senior-friendly learning community. The Digit-Gera partnership has created materials for trainers and educators (a publication and an e-course). There you can find a rationale for why educators should use digital tools in adult education and information on how to do it practically. The case studies, Practitioner's Toolbox, is a concrete guide to the work of trainers. The DigCompEdu framework is also useful for self-assessment and guidance on teacher professional development.



The role of EDUCATORS in the process of introducing seniors to the digital society

Educators play a key role in the process of introducing seniors to digital society and building age-friendly digital learning communities (DAFLCs). Their tasks include:

1. **Education and Training:** By teaching seniors basic and advanced digital skills, they help them use technology safely and effectively.
2. **Support and motivation:** They encourage online activities by offering support and building confidence among participants.
3. **Creating a safe environment:** They provide safe learning spaces where seniors can freely experiment and develop their skills.
4. **Individualised approach:** They tailor teaching methods to the needs and abilities of each senior, taking into account their learning pace and specific needs.
5. **Exchange of experience:** They participate in experience sharing with other educators, which enables them to continuously improve their teaching methods and better understand the needs of seniors.



Digital competencies of adult educators

The question arises, what digital competencies should an adult educator have?

The answer can be based on DigCompEdu's competency matrix.

1. **Knowledge of digital tools and educational resources:**
 - Ability to effectively use a variety of digital tools to create and share educational materials.
 - Finding and evaluating the quality of digital resources suitable for seniors.
2. **Designing educational content:**
 - Creating engaging and accessible learning materials, taking into account the needs of seniors.
 - Using multimedia, interactive elements and educational games to enhance learning.
3. **Managing the teaching and learning process:**
 - Organising and conducting remote and on-site classes using e-learning platforms.

- Monitoring seniors' progress and adjusting teaching methods to meet their individual needs.
- 4. **Supporting listeners:**
 - Provide technical and emotional support, helping seniors overcome technology-related barriers.
 - Build seniors' confidence through positive reinforcement and individualized attention.
- 5. **Assessment and feedback:**
 - Evaluate seniors' progress using digital assessment tools.
 - Provide constructive feedback to help seniors continue to grow.
- 6. **Digital safety and ethics:**
 - Promoting safe and responsible use of the Internet.
 - To educate seniors about protecting privacy, recognizing scams and securing personal information.
- 7. **Communication and collaboration:**
 - Using digital communication tools to foster interaction and collaboration among seniors.
 - Facilitate the creation of digital communities that foster the sharing of experiences and mutual support.
- 8. **Professional development:**
 - Continuous improvement of own digital and pedagogical (geragogical) competencies.
 - Participate in trainings, courses and professional networks to stay abreast of the latest trends and educational tools.

And this is where the dedicated materials developed in the DIGIT-GERA project are a key support for educators and trainers.

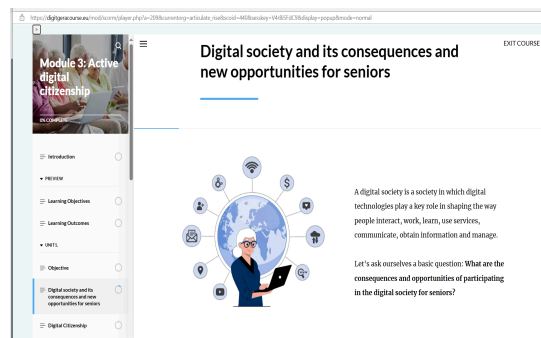
DIGIT-GERA tools for senior educators

1. **The publication DIGIT-GERA Building a Digital Age-Friendly Learning Community. Analysis of geragogy methodologies for seniors learners for an active digital citizenship.**

The publication provides an overview of geragogy as a science that supports the development of seniors, discusses the role of education in improving the quality of life of seniors, and presents examples of good practices and projects that develop their competencies. It also describes the importance of digital skills in aging and offers tips for creating senior-friendly digital learning communities. The overall goal is to promote the active participation of seniors in society, especially in the digital age.



2. **DIGIT-GERA - an innovative e-learning course** designed for trainers and employees of educational organisations to create a more inclusive and digital society. Based on the European Digital Education Plan, the course is an important initiative to empower seniors in the digital age.

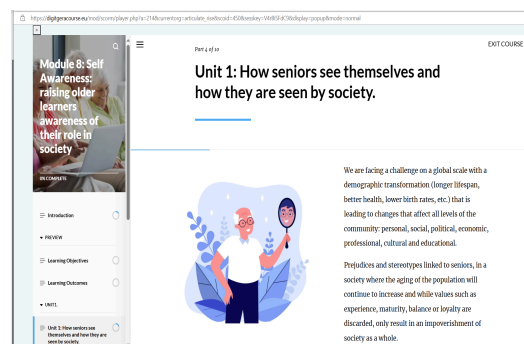


The DIGIT-GERA e-learning course consists of 10 comprehensive modules that are designed to address the unique challenges and opportunities encountered by seniors in the digital age.

Learning objectives

DIGIT-GERA course objectives include:

1. **Improve teachers' and trainers' skills in using digital technologies to effectively teach seniors**, with particular emphasis on areas identified in DigCompEdu, such as teaching, collaborative learning, and accessibility and inclusion.
2. **Develop personal skills of teachers and trainers, such as communication, collaboration and problem-solving, to effectively support seniors in their digital journey.**
3. **To impart knowledge of geragogy and teaching methods tailored to the needs of seniors**, including the introduction of the DigComp framework and its use in planning and implementing activities for seniors with an emphasis on safety.
4. **Preparing educators and trainers to teach classes on active digital citizenship**, online safety, developing seniors' minds through the use of technology, seniors' mental health, seniors' physical fitness, self-awareness and critical geragogy.
5. **Building a digital age-friendly learning community (DAFLC) to support senior learning and faculty sharing.**



Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of a digital age-friendly learning community (DAFLC) and its relevance to seniors.

2. Identify the needs and preferences of seniors for digital education.
3. Use digital technologies to effectively teach seniors.
4. Using teaching methods tailored to the needs of seniors.
5. Promoting active digital citizenship and online safety among seniors.
6. Building and supporting senior-friendly digital learning communities

The course was prepared by an international team of specialists from Poland, France, Portugal, Spain and Italy, which ensures a diversity of tools, methods and perspectives, contributing to a deeper understanding of the topic by the participants.

Sustainability of results - what's next?

Although the DIGIT-GERA project is ending, the **e-learning platform** will remain available to users for another **5 years** after the project ends. Anyone interested in the topic can register and take the online course.

All participants will receive certificates of completion for subsequent modules if they successfully complete them and pass the required final test. It is expected that at least 250 teachers and trainers will register and complete the online course in the sustainability phase. Therefore, we are counting on your interest and participation in the course.

2 months before the platform closes, participants who have not yet completed the course will be notified so that they have time to complete the course. But that will only be in 5 years, so [REGISTER now](#) and develop your potential with [DIGIT-GERA](#).

Since all materials will be released as OER, partners and any other entities can update and create different versions of their courses based on them at any time after the funding phase ends.

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