



EFOS

European Federation of Older Students at the Universities
Europäische Vereinigung älterer Studierender and den Universitäten
Fédération Européenne des Etudiants Agés aux Universités



EFOS NEWS

1

2007

Special Edition:
Peer Review of Universities of the 3rd Age

European Federation of Older Students

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From the editor:

This edition of the EFOS News is dedicated to one theme: The comparison of universities of the 3rd Age (UTA) that are involved in EFOS. The table and the articles are the results of the first phase of our EFOSEC project (EFOS Enlargement and Co-operation), which we are carrying out since mid 2007 with financial support of the European Commission. They form the basis for an overview of the education for older people on an academic level. In the next project phases we want to explore ways to learn from each other.

The content of this edition shows the great variety in UTA's. The vitality of the education for older people is demonstrated by the fact that each country and nearly every city has chosen its own solution to satisfy the needs and wishes of their older citizens. This may be our first lesson: it would be useless, even contraproductive to try to define generally applicable contents and forms for the education for older people. The students wouldn't appreciate it.

To complete the picture we also need the opinions and wishes of the older students themselves. These are being investigated with a questionnaire. The results will be published in the next edition of EFOS News end of 2007.

In the present edition we managed for the first time to publish a fully equivalent German and English version. This could only be achieved with a major translation effort. In this context I would like to thank all those who offered their help spontaneously, especially Herta Spitaler and Gerti Zupanich from Vienna, Sigrid Hug-Tode from Groningen und Maj Aldskogius from Uppsala.

March 2007

Peter Hug

EFOS News

Publication of the
European Federation of Older
Students at Universities

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Contents

	page
EFOSEC Peer Review Table, Forms of scientific education for seniors at universities (situation 2006)	5
Short descriptions of the universities of the 3rd age:	
<i>Slovakia</i>	
Bratislava	10
<i>Czech Republic</i>	
Brno	13
Olomouc	14
<i>Poland</i>	
Wroclaw	16
<i>Austria</i>	
Graz	18
Vienna	21
<i>Netherlands</i>	
Groningen	22
<i>Sweden</i>	
Uppsala	24
<i>Germany</i>	
Berlin	27
Dresden	31
Kiel	32
Leipzig	33
Magdeburg	36

EFOSEC Peer Review Table
Forms of scientific education for seniors at universities (situation 2006)

	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		<i>Poland</i>	<i>Austria</i>		<i>Netherlands</i>
	Bratislava	Brno	Olomouc	Wroclaw	Graz	Wien	Groningen
Type of U3A/Seniorstudies *)	Informal separate	Informal separate		Informal separate	Formal + Integrate	Formal + Integrate, Informal	Informal separate
Link with the University	full	full		full	Regular studies	Regular studies	Seniorenacademie Liaison with university and 2 colleges
Prequalification	Matura/Abitur	Matura/Abitur		interview	Matura/Abitur	„university entrance qualification“ only for regular students	none
Final document	certificate	certificate		Diploma, certificate	Diploma, doctorate, Baccalaureat	Diploma, doctorate	certificate
Reason for study	Interest 100%	Interest 100%		Self deployment 80 % Interest 20 %	Qualification 30% Interest 70%	Qualification 80% Interest 20%	Interest 100%
Duration of study or course	3-4 years	3 years		No time limit	3 years Baccalaureat, 5 years Master	3 years Baccalaureat, 5 years Master	5 – 10 weeks
Hours per week (classes and workshops)	2-3	2 – 5		Up to 20 depending on interest	To be arranged freely	To be arranged freely	2 – 5
Frequency	1/14 days	1 – 2 / week		Depending on interest 3-5	Daily	Daily	Once per week
Forms of education	Lectures excursions exercises	Lectures, PC exercises, Excursions		Lectures Workshops Sections	Lectures, exercises, workshops	Lectures, exercises, workshops	Lectures Workshops Trips

	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Czech Republic</i>		<i>Poland</i>	<i>Austria</i>		<i>Netherlands</i>
	Bratislava	Brno	Olomouc	Wroclaw	Graz	Wien	Groningen
				Seminars Exercises			Research
Forms of exams	Obligatory and voluntary	Final Team Work		none	Regular university	Regular university	voluntary
New learning methods	Not regularly			none			
Subjects	General humanistic studies	New Technologies, IT, Architecture, Sport Activities		General humanistic			In principal all university sciences
Using new technologies	Teachers + Students	Teachers+ Students		Teachers	e-administration	e-learning	Teachers
Number of students of which male female	1518 M 12 % W 88 %	Ca. 1000 M 350 F 650		Total 684 M 65 F 619	434 M 175 F 259	Total 2845 M 1230 F 1615	1565 M 42 % F 58 %
Age distribution		50 to 85		From 60 to 90	Above 50	Above 45	Above 50
Established in	1990	2000		1976		1978	1986
Study Fee/ contributions	€30 per year 1/7monthly pension	€ 14 for Basic Course € 25 for 12-Week PC Course		€ 10 / semester + fees for some of the exercises	€363 / semester	€ 363 / semester	€ 195/ 10-week course
Other financial support	None Office and classrooms free Expenses are covered by the students fees	Projects		University, Local authorities by grant applications	none		Office and class- rooms free. Vo- luntary contribu- tions of students for Support Fund . Some sponsors
Exchange of experiences, advise to the others	Exchange between students, visit of other Uni	Exchange between students and Universities in the context of the Czech Association of AU3As		Exchange between students, visit of other U3A's	By senior students at the "Hochschüler- schaft"	By senior students at the "Hochschüler- schaft"	Contacts with older students from Germany

EFOSEC Peer Review Table
Forms of scientific education for seniors at universities (situation 2006)

Continued

	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Germany</i>					
	Uppsala	Berlin	Bielefeld	Dresden	Kiel	Leipzig	Magdeburg
Type of U3A/Seniorstudies *)	Informal separate		Formal + integrate Informal	Informal separate	Informal separate	Formal integrated	Formal
Link with the University	Informal + cooperation with academic institutions		Part of the department for advanced scientific education	Cooperation with academic institutions	Registered association at the university	Regular lectures open to senior students	Regular lectures open to senior students plus special lectures
Prequalification	none		none		none	none	none
Final document	none		Diploma, seldom	none	none	none	certificat
Reason for study	Interest 100 %		Interest 100%	Interest 100%	Interest 100 %	Participation in social life	Acquiring scientific knowledge
Duration of study or course	No time limit		unlimited	No time limit	unlimited	Free choice	unlimited
Hours per week (classes and workshops)	1 -3		To be arranged freely	Up to 20 hours depending on interest	Varying, 2 – 8 hours	According to the student's interest	Average 2 – 10 hours
Frequency	Once a week or once every fortnight		daily		1 x / week	According to the student's choice	2 x / week
Forms of education	Lectures, seminars, work groups, excursions, tours, research oriented studies		Lectures, workshops, Self-organised study circles	Lectures Workshops Work groups	Lectures Seminars Workgroups	Lectures Workshops Seminars Excursions	Lectures Seminars Sport courses Excursions Workshops
Forms of exams	None		Facultative, seldom	none	none	none	none
New learning methods	Under discussion		none	none	planned		Learning methods of direct study

	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Germany</i>					
	Uppsala	Berlin	Bielefeld	Dresden	Kiel	Leipzig	Magdeburg
Subjects	In principle all university disciplines		All faculties except sports	all university sciences	All academic sciences	Wide choice	All academic sciences. Themes with regional context from culture, economy, tourism, spiritual life
Using new technologies	Teachers + students		PC/Internet Teachers and students	Teachers+ Students	Teachers + students	Internet	Internet, e-mail
Number of students of which male female	Total 1654 M 486 F 1169		Ca. 700 M 45% W 55%	1000	Total Ca. 350 M ca. 50 % F ca. 50 %	Total 481 M 179 F 302	Total 450 M 150 F 200
Age distribution	58 years and above		50 and older	45 to above 80	45 to 80 and above	From 50 years	From 50 years
Established in	1979		1990/91	1995	1990	1993	1992
Study Fee/ contributions	Annual fee € 20 + € 30-70 per semester for lecture series and work groups		€ 100 per semester	€ 30 per semester + € 10 for special events	€ 30 basic fee plus € 15 / 30 per course	€ 40 per semester	€50 per semester
Other financial support	Support from the government and the local community. Voluntary workers		none	Office and classrooms free Mostly voluntary workers	none	none	none
Exchange of experiences, advice to others	Exchange of experiences with other U3A.s in Sweden and advise to others with members of AIUTA Exchange of		With seniorstudents of universities Groningen/NL Magdeburg Hannover	Discussions in the supporting association and in the scientific advisory group	Through the organisers of the "Kontaktstudium"	Exchange during events. Exchange with seniors of other universities, seniors advising starting students at the students association	Semester meeting Student council Exchange with other universities

	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Germany</i>					
	Uppsala	Berlin	Bielefeld	Dresden	Kiel	Leipzig	Magdeburg
	students with Spain, Germany and France						

*) Note: **Type of UTA/Seniorstudies:** formal = education certified by the government, with diploma and/or academic title
informal = education not certified by government. e.g. attendance of university lectures without formal exam, special courses or studies
integrated = young and older students studying together
separate = special studies for older students



UTA Bratislava

University of the Third Age at the Centre for Continuing Education of the Comenius University



The University of the Third Age (UTA) under the auspices of Comenius University was established in 1990 as the first institution of this kind in the Slovak Republic. The UTA is located at the Centre for Continuing Education of the Comenius University, as one of the centre's division.

The UTA organizes courses mainly for retired people, for medically retired (physically handicapped) and for people before retirement - generally for people over 50. It offers to the students a 3-year interest group study in about 26 study branches in 3 cities. Along with Bratislava, there are courses also in Nitra and in Martin (central Slovakia).

The study plan of each year provides for 14 three-hour lectures to be presented each fortnight. During their first year the students are offered basic lectures from each of the offered disciplines. Their second and third year is devoted to the study of optional disciplines and students enroll in the study of specialised branches:

Archaeology	Economics	History of the fine art
History of religions	Philosophy	Regeneration of the strength of Seniors
Slovak history	General history	Latin and the old Roman history
Tourism + services	Yoga	Theatre and music in the passing of time
Ethnology	Social work	General medicine
Pharmacy	Psychology	Computers and Information
Law	Journalism	Horticulture and gardening
Astronomy	Gerontology	History and monuments of Bratislava



The interest in this form of study constantly increases. Yearly almost 1500 elderly students enroll in 46 study groups. After completing their study, students are ceremonially given certificates.

The pedagogical process at the UTA is complemented by other educational and social forms. Along with lectures and seminars, we organise excursions, panel discussions, visits to other universities, informal meetings and conceptualised trips.

Topics, which are the same or similar to those in undergraduate courses, are given by university lecturers either from our faculties or from partner ones. There are about 300 lecturers at our UTA altogether.

We provide other facilities and events for elderly people in addition to the study programme:

- Students organize on themselves meetings and discussions with politicians, they arrange visits to theatres, publish newspapers and manage other free time activities in their Club of the UTA students.
- We regularly organize the "Global walk event" which started in October 1999 around the world. It was organized by WHO from GINA in Geneva. In Bratislava we walk from the main university building across the city to the recreational part of the city.



Survey of number of courses and students:

Year	Courses	Groups	Number of Students
1990/91	1	2	235
1991/92	9	11	407
1992/93	12	15	653
1993/94	14	22	671
1994/95	15	31	745
1995/96	17	32	801
1996/97	19	35	822
1997/98	22	34	884
1998/99	24	42	998
1999/2000	21	34	998
2000/2001	22	37	1040
2001/2002	22	38	1112
2002/2003	22	38	1135
2003/2004	23	42	1277
2004/2005	26	45	1241
2005/2006	26	46	1521

During the years 2002-2004 we participated in the Socrates Grundtvig project group of EuCoNet. Results of our work you can find on the page www.gemeinsamlernen.de/euconet.

The University of the Third Age at Comenius University is a member of the International Association of UTAs (**AIUTA**), the European Federation of Older Students at Universities (**EFOS**) and **EURAG** (European Federation of the Elderly).

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Universities of the 3rd Age in the Czech Republic

Lenka Shromáždilová, Brno University of Technology

1. Introduction

Basic intent:

UTA is not just an educational process. It is also a tool for making life better and easier at an advanced age.

Specific conditions in the Czech Republic:

1. Our seniors have spent the greater part of life under a totalitarian regime.
2. UTA's are provided by institutions financed by the state.

2. The situation today

The first UTA's (usually in the form of separate lectures) began in the nineteen eighties at humanities faculties (at Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno).

The Association of UTA's was founded in 1993.

We now have 47 members. Special educational activities for seniors are now offered at 19 universities.

Over 12,000 people are estimated to attend UTA's in the Czech Republic.

The Association of UTA's (AU3V) is trying to inform, spread experience and create a platform for further plans, projects and discussions.

AU3V is based at the Brno University of Technology (BUT); its Secretary General is L. Shromazdilova.

Since 2004 we have received support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for building an infrastructure for senior education. This amounts to around 500,000 Euros per year.

3. UTA at BUT

The main idea of UTA at BUT is to give older people the chance to use modern technology, understand new systems and participate in all the benefits of modern life.

We offer 3 different types of courses:

1. Basic course (general overview, 2 years, presenting the most interesting results of research at 8 faculties at Brno University of Technology)
2. Courses about using PCs (7 levels, starting from the beginning, advanced methods, internet)
3. Special courses (chemistry at home, building an audiovisual centre at home, digital photography etc.)

4. The future

We try to offer new courses in every academic year on scientific areas researched at our university. in the year 2020 the seniors are expected to represent 30 % of the population.

U3A Olomouc

The University of 3rd Age (further only U3A) at the Palacký University in Olomouc provides education of seniors according to their interests, according to the concept of life-long education and in correspondence with the strategy of the UNO for educational activities for seniors. The U3A in Olomouc is the oldest university of this type in our republic, it was started in 1986 as the first one in the, at that time, Czechoslovak Republic. It was organized by the District Committee of the Czechoslovak Red Cross in co-operation with a series of other institutions, especially the Faculty Hospital in Olomouc, the Czech Gerontological Society and the Palacký University. By its creators it was conceived as a five years' educational cycle and as for the subjects medicine was dominating. The leading personality of the Olomouc U3A was the head physician of the local Faculty Hospital MUDr. Jaromir Vachutka, CSc.

After the closure of this seniors' university in April 1991 others picked up this without any doubt significant idea and organized studies for the seniors in the Section of Sociology and Andragogy of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Palacký University, which represents a qualified theoretical, methodological and methodical workplace dealing among others with the activities of citizens of post productive age. This conception of the U3A chose the form of a three year's study for people above 50, divided into two stages. This concept which was of course further conditioned and refined during the following years, met the expectations and needs of the seniors. Since it proved to be good, it has been maintained ever since.

The first stage comprises the first year of the studies. Its program is drawn up to cover manifold themes with uniphase lectures and a universal introduction as well. The lectures are focused on problems of life-long education, including sociological and psychological aspects of the post-productive age as well as history, politology, philosophy and the like.

The second stage, i.e. the second and third year of the studies, is already thematically unified. The seniors attend the so called specialized courses. Up till now the following courses have been realized at the Olomouc U3A: Arts and their use in the contemporary living conditions, Culture in the past and at present, a medically oriented course 'Man in health and illness' and a course called 'The regeneration of the human organism by movement'. Newly opened courses are 'The spiritual dimension of mankind', 'We - people and nature at the break of millenniums' and 'The dialogue among generations'.

The U3A is sponsored for its specialization and organization by the Institute of Sociology and Andragogy of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Palacký University, but the studies for seniors are understood as a task of the whole university and all its faculties. The U3A forms one of the activities of the Palacký University and resorts under the vice-rector for pedagogy and studies. The typical feature of the new concept of the Olomouc U3A is the choice between two options - either the passive form of the study of facultative subjects where the seniors attend lectures and other activities but do not sit for colloquiums or the active form where the students attend colloquiums too. The studies are closed by a festive graduation ceremony. The students who chose the passive form of the studies receive a certificate of graduating, the active students get a diploma of graduation from the U3A.

Some facts about the studies of the U3A in Olomouc

The studies at the U3A in Olomouc take 3 years. It is a study of interest for elderly people – over 50 – which does not provide a university education (not even the lower-bachelor), nor any qualification. It is to provide an opportunity for elderly people to compare their knowledge and experience with the latest findings, that are of any importance for an active life in the contemporary quickly changing society. The first form has got a feature of a universal introduction, the lectures being realized from the areas of Hygiene, Arts, Natural Science and Law. (The graduates of the U3A can according to their interest, choose some other specialized course and attend it without repeating the first year course). In the 2nd and 3rd year the students attend the so called specialized courses. Nowadays they are:

- Arts and their place in the contemporary living conditions (facts from Psychology, Sociology,

- History and Politology) guaranteed by the Faculty of Philosophy UP
- Culture in the past and present (creative arts, music, theatre and film) guaranteed by the faculties of philosophy and pedagogy UP
 - Man in health and disease (questions dealing with keeping healthy and prevention of diseases, actual questions of medicine) guaranteed by the Faculty of Medicine, UP
 - The way to health - regeneration of the human organism through gym (a course dealing with Physical Education) realized by the Faculty of Physical Education, UP
 - Spiritual dimension of man (oriented on theological questions) – realized by the Faculty of Theology of Cyril and Method, UP
 - We/man and nature at the break of millenniums (a course of natural science), organized by the Faculty of Natural Science, UP
 - Inter-generational Dialogue (joint studies with the regular students), offered by the Faculty of Pedagogy, UP

The lecturers of the U3A are teachers of the Faculties, UP and other selected specialists. The choice of the lectures is the responsibility of the director of the U3A. For the specialized courses it is the responsibility of the sponsors of the studies at the competent college and of the board of the departments responsible for the education.

U3A Wroclaw



The University of the 3rd Age in Wrocław was founded in 1976, so it has been existing for 30 years now. The U3A is run by Walentyna Wnuk. She is a university teacher, andragogist and gerontologist involved in adult education as well as in education of the elderly. However, the core of U3A is the Scientific Board of Supervisors which consists of professors of the Medical Academy, the Academy of Physical Education, the University of Wrocław and representatives of the University of the Third Age Council.

The program of the U3A includes intellectual, physical and social aspects of non-formal education.

The University of the Third Age in Wrocław offers the following:

- completing and updating people's knowledge,
- gaining competence, which helps to overcome developmental crises
- possibilities to get to know other older people
- support for elderly people
- stimulation to work for the sake of others.

U3A of Wrocław offers the following kinds of activities for older students:

- Lectures given weekly by professors
- Work in small groups which focus on:
 - The autumn of life from the gerontological perspective.
 - Physical culture in elderly people's lives
 - Art in elderly people's lives
 - Music therapy
 - Anthropology – philosophical and theological aspects
- Sections
 - Bridge section
 - Photography section
 - Embroidery section
 - Cultural section
 - Physical culture
 - Dance and music section
 - Organization and planning section
 - Artistic and decorating section
 - Nature section
 - Chess section
 - Tourist section
 - Publishing section
 - Section of mutual help
- Clubs

- Dicussion club
- Art lovers' club
- Wanderers of the golden age' club
- Artistic groups
 - Chorus
 - Cabaret "The elderlies"
 - Poetry theatre
- Foreign languages courses
 - English
 - French
 - German
 - Russian
- Gymnastics
- Modules
 - Natural World
 - Psychology of late adulthood
 - Medicine and physical activity in old age
 - Study of Knowledge of the European Union
- Workshops
 - Andragogical
 - Philosophical
 - Painting
 - Dance therapy



An important thing to say is that from its beginnings local authorities have been supporting U3A's activities in the financial and content-related way . They have helped U3A to become an autonomous unit with its own small base.

To sum up, elderly people show a great interest in attending U3A. The students of U3A edit and publish their own periodical ("Kurier"), which is distributed to U3A's all over Poland.

Owing to the well-developing co-operation with the authorities of Wrocław University as well as local authorities, U3A can expand its activities. However, due to space limitations (e.g. the lack of a room equipped with computers), it cannot fully meet the needs of elderly people.

Graz

Senior studies in view of the principle of Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning according to the definition of the European Union means "all learning activity undertaken throughout life, with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence, within a personal, civic, social and/or employment-related perspective and including formal, non-formal and informal learning".

The UN World Conference on questions regarding old age on 12th April 2002 in Madrid ratified the international action plan regarding old age. The regional action strategies were adopted at the conference of ministers in Berlin in September 2003 and are also binding for Austria.

Another important approach in this respect is the slogan "Active Ageing" of the World Health Organization.

It is the common aim of all these appeals to stress the importance of intellectual activity in order to be able to enjoy life as long as possible. Since the working life will be prolonged for demographic reasons the importance of Lifelong Learning for individuals and the society will grow in the future. That means learning must give content and joy.

Which target group do we mean if we speak of senior studies and education after working life? At the Karl Franzens University in Graz women and men at Fifty-plus are regarded as "senior students".

Aims of senior studies and general guidelines - learning and education motivation in one's older age.

The motivation to learn is important as cause and support to induce people to initiate learning and to stick to one's plans. It depends on encouragement and challenge in the context of groups and institutions. Motivation without social appreciation can only last longer in exceptional cases. Each learning individual needs recognition but this goes especially for the motivation of older persons to learn. Older persons can learn with more motivation and effect if they can update already existing knowledge. Better education of succeeding age-groups and the change in values contribute to an increasing motivation to learn.

Senior studies are challenges for seniors for lifelong learning. It gives older students the chance to improve, update and find out personal skills, knowledge and views by studying the results of the latest research. By getting acquainted with the scientific subjects of the university and by having the opportunity to participate in projects and to prove oneself many seniors will be enabled to give sense and content to the new phase in their lives. Some follow a conference now and then others will make a degree at the university. By participating in academic discussions the range of studies offer for older people the creation of new activities and the possibility to qualify for occupations after working life. Furthermore senior studies shall make possible inter-generational learning of young and older students and shall foster the exchange between generations.

The possibilities to issue **certificates** should be variable:

- Confirmation of participation
- certificate on the basis of exams
- graduation according to university programmes (see §§ 56, 58 University Law 2002)

Studies can be made in different forms:

As a regular or as a non-regular student

- Regular students: For regular studies a formal admission authorization is necessary. The studies are regulated by a study order. During the university studies certificates must be acquired. At the end of the studies an academic degree is conferred.

- Non-regular students: Frequentation of a university course or singular lectures.

For both study forms tuition fees have to be paid.

Special forms of studies for seniors:

- Special study programmes: It is possible to create a special study programme for older students. It consists of interdisciplinary courses of lectures and of special lectures out of the existing programme of the university which are offered especially for older students. There also exist study programmes with lectures in concentrated form such as summer academies.

- Qualifications after working life: This applies to people which have no formal employee relationship any more or have closed their active family phase and wish to have a socially relevant activity. In many social areas people are needed who can assume important tasks as civic engagement in view of their experience of life plus a further qualification. The offered programme consists of the regular courses plus special lectures.

Senior students at the KFU Graz:

434 women and men Fifty-plus i.e. 259 women, 175 men

Regular senior students:

285 arts (194 w, 91m)

50 natural sciences (24w, 26m)

14 social sciences (9w, 5m)

32 Catholic theology (11w, 21m)

28 law (8w, 20m)

Non regular students:

25 (17w, 8m)

Art 61, pedagogy 47, philosophy 39, history 32, theology 32 - those are the subjects preferred by older students

The Austrian Students Organization

As from the year 1986 the Austrian Students Organization at the University of Graz has maintained a department for intergenerational questions (up to 1996 department for seniors).

This service office offers individual advice and organizes a number of events. In 2000 the "Monday academy" was created in order to offer access to science and education to older people without having to pay tuition fees. The "Philosophic Café" was opened in accordance with the opening of the university "Uni goes public". The "International Tea" brings together different cultures. Public events bring together science and practice.

Programme of the "Generationenreferat" for the winter term 2006

Information on studies: Monday DDDDr Ingeborg Kappel, Thursday Ilse Toriser 10 - 12, Mozartgasse 14a, 8010 Graz

Congress: Active Ageing - Education without frontiers, Presentation of transnational projects financed by the EU regarding education, occupation, research and social matters 12th and 13th October 2006.

International Tea: Sunday 26th November 2006 - 17 - 21 h, organization: Dr. Heide Streicher and Bettina Brix, GEFAS Steiermark

Philosophic Café at the Sacher, Graz, Herrengasse on 25th September 2006, "Ist alles Leben nur Problemlösen?" and on 13th November 2006 "Zur Untrennbarkeit von Wissen und Weisheit für die werdende Weltgesellschaft" Dr. Johann Götschl, University prof. organized by Ilse Toriser.

11h Matinée on 15th October 2006 in the Meerscheinschlößl "The revolt of the librettists" librettists of all times have been angry up to this date about the disdain for their works. Erik Göller, Karlheinz Donauer and Wolfgang Müller-Lorenz appear as despised librettists with musical and literary performance. Idea and execution: Gerda Klimak

Information and registration: Department for generation questions +43(0)316 380 2964 and gefas@seniorweb.at

Evaluation: In order to make the general rules for the study requirements of older people and for the requirements of the faculties suitable it is suggested to carry out a regular evaluation. Part of the evaluation is to create a basis for the calculation regarding the granting of means for senior studies.

Institutions already existing or in the state of development

Innsbrucker Akademie der Älteren (Academy for older people at Innsbruck)

A pilot model which proved (from 2002 - 2004) on a project basis (EU project co-financed by Austrian ministries) offers for academic education after working life. The programme (special offers, courses, educational weeks) apply to people in their third phase of life in order to satisfy their cognitive needs.

Third Age Academy - Conception of an educational institution for persons Fifty-plus

The "Third Age Academy" intends to be an educational institution of the Association of "Wiener Volksbildung" for persons Fifty-plus. It offers services according to the requirements of the target group.

Model of three pillars:

- 1) Courses: high-quality vocationally orientated courses for people Fifty-plus.
- 2) Other courses: large spectrum, considering social requirements as well as the entertainment aspect and offers useful activities on a high level with topics from philosophy, history, culture and politics, language courses, occupation with the new media.
- 3) Open Space: Offering space and possibilities to organize private initiatives such as travel clubs, discussion clubs, seminars, self-help groups etc.

Grazer "Montagsakademie"

It is a further education programme of the Karl Franzens University Graz and of the Austrian Students' Organization at the University Graz, Department of Generations. This offer applies to all those interested in general education for personality development. Students of all faculties, graduates of all high schools and universities for applied science, as well as persons of all ages and any school education. The programme (such as astronomy, fundamental theology, evolution of human behaviour, law, philosophy as orientation, architecture, mathematics etc.) will help people to orientate themselves in a world not easily comprehensible and will foster the capacity for autonomy important with regard to democracy.

Necessary measures

What is the aim of this initiative? This should be an offer for older persons to get an academic education without having to pay the whole tuition fees. Those seniors who are "regular students" are usually ready to pay the whole fees as other regular students. But those older persons who only participate in some selected lectures or courses and wish to get certificates for those singular lectures should be in a position to pay reduced fees. According to the already existing models in Austria but also following examples from abroad it seems to be sensible to **institutionalize** special offers for seniors.

Literature: 2003 Texts from a concept of the ministry of education regarding senior studies:

Prof.Dr.Franz Kolland, Dr. Eckart Ruschman, Mag. Regina Barth, Dr. Rosemarie Kurz
Statistics from the ZID of the University of Graz, Thomas Trummer

The University of Vienna

Alma Mater Rudolphina



History:

The University of Vienna was founded by the Habsburger Duke Rudolph IV in 1365. She is one of the oldest universities in the German speaking world and one of the largest in Central Europe.

63,000 students are currently enrolled at the university which offers about 130 degree programmes among them 18 Bachelor programmes und 26 Master programmes. The implementation of the new *Bologna Program has to be completed till 2008.*

Scientific Areas

The 5 400 members of the scientific staff of the University of Vienna engage in teaching and research in the following scientific areas: Catholic Theology, Protestant Theology, Law, Business, Economics and Statistics, Computer Science, Historical, Philological, and Cultural Studies, Philosophy and Educational Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy, Life Sciences, Translation Studies, Sports Sciences and Molecular Biology.

The University of Vienna centres around its historic Central Building at the Ringstraße and the nearby university campus, which hosts numerous departments and the newly constructed auditorium centre. However, the university is spread over 60 different locations in Vienna's historical centre and the vicinity.

Networks:

The university traditionally has strong international relations in research and teaching and continually expands them. She takes part in the Erasmus/Sokrates programme and is member of several international networks, including ASEA-UNINET, the network of universities in the capitals of Europe (UNICA) and the European University Association (EUA). Of its 331 European partner universities, the university has established Erasmus partnerships with 311 universities. Students from about 130 countries enrol in the degree programmes which feature a total of more than 10 000 courses each.

ONLINE Services:

The university offers ONLINE services for staff and students such as: Registration, course-calendar, lending services, University Newsletter and so on ...

Student Council:

ÖH (Österreichische Hochschülerschaft) ist the Austrian Student Council. This council has small participation rights in selecting courses for the curricula. During the semester they offer a wide-area *help desk* for students. ÖH representatives are elected for a period of two years elected by students.

Courses for senior students in Austria

Seniorstudents, who would like to graduate at the Austrian universities have to register their entrance just like the younger students and to pay a admission fee. (Since 2001, 363.36 Euro/semester for all students). Lectures and tests are exactly the same. In general all 130 degree programmes are freely selectable if the applicants have a final secondary school examination or a special licence. Since 2005 there has been a run on Austrian universities by students from Germany, especially for the field of medicine. For this reason it seams necessary to introduce university-entrance examinations for all new medicine students.

Senior en Academie Groningen en Drenthe



History

In 1986 the *Senioren Academie* was founded at the *Rijksuniversiteit* (University) *Groningen* with the aim to provide **academical education for older people**. The education is aimed to all people above 50 who are interested in a study. The initiative in Groningen was soon followed up elsewhere in the Netherlands. Nowadays most of the Dutch universities offer education for older people.

Education on offer

For the first course in 1986, an introduction into psychology, a special course model for education for elderly people was developed. The experience since then proves that the model fits its purpose very well. It still forms the basis for the education at the *Senioren Academie* in Groningen and Drenthe, and elsewhere.

There is no formal requirement for a certain pre-education. The course participants are however expected to be able to think on the level of a starting university student.

The basic structure consists of short **courses** of five to ten lectures, once a week. The lectures are given by one or several university teachers. Some courses also include **workshops** that are lead by graduates or advanced university students. These workshops meet the need of many senior students for further discussion with other students, thereby deepening their knowledge.

The most popular subjects are history, art, music, literature, philosophy and psychology. Natural sciences are less popular, probably because the students feel that they don't have enough basic knowledge in this field or because they have worked in this field and after retirement want to develop their knowledge in other sciences.



The programme also includes a number of **single lectures**.

Since 2001 the senior students have the possibility to take part in scientific **research projects** at the university. These are either regular projects of various faculties or projects that are specifically set up for the senior students. There is also a possibility to do research individually on a subject of one's own choice, with expert advice from a (emerited) university professor.



Since 1998 the *Senioren Academie* also offers **travel arrangements**. The theme or place to be visited is discussed in a course prior to the start of the trip.

Presently there are more than 1.500 course registrations per year.

In the autumn of 2006 the students could choose from:

in Groningen:

- 37 courses
- 3 lectures

in Emmen:

- 10 courses

Organisation

The *Rijksuniversiteit Groningen*, the *Hanzehogeschool Groningen* and the *Hogeschool Drenthe* are parent institutions. They advise the *Senioren Academie* with respect to content and level of the courses and they provide rooms free of charge. However, the *Senioren Academie* doesn't receive any financial contributions from them. The only sources of income are the course fees, voluntary contributions of senior students for a support fund and some sponsoring from commercial firms.

Senioren Academie Groningen en Drenthe

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Uppsala Senioruniversitet

Maj Aldskogius, president and international coordinator, Uppsala UTA

UTA's in Sweden

A general principle in Sweden is that life long learning should be open to everybody at no or a minimal cost. Uppsala University has 40 000 students and many seniors take part in regular university courses. Adult education has, however, developed outside the regular educational system.

There are 25 Universities of the Third Age (UTA's) in Sweden. They are all part of an Adult Educational Association called "Folkuniversitetet" and thus independent from the regular universities. Folkuniversitetet started in the 1940's as a joint organisation for the adult education programs at the five big universities in Sweden, among them Uppsala.. This movement was an expression of the wish of academic teachers to involve themselves in adult education.

Uppsala is the oldest UTA in Sweden and was founded in 1979. All the UTA's in Sweden have an organisation that is separate from Folkuniversitetet but get financial support from the state through Folkuniversitetet for their activities; some UTA's are also supported by the local municipality. From the Uppsala UTA home page there are links to all other UTA's in Sweden.

To be able to use the facilities of one of the UTA's, you have to be a member of that UTA. You can become a member of the Uppsala UTA if you are 58 years of age or if you are retired or if you are married to a retired person. There are no other requirements except that you pay your membership fee – at the moment about 20 euros per year in Uppsala. About three fourths of our members are women.

Most of the UTA's are located in cities with universities or colleges. Three of the largest are those in Stockholm (3500 members), Uppsala (1700 members) and Göteborg (1500 members) . The total number of UTA members in Sweden is over 15 000. The total population of Sweden is ca. 9 million people.

The UTA's are run by retired people on a voluntary basis; all the administrative work in Uppsala is for instance carried out by a group of about 10 volunteers. However, Folkuniversitetet provides us with office space.

All the UTA's in Sweden are members of a co-ordinating organisation that usually meets at the end of May every second year.

UTA activities in Uppsala

The purpose of the Uppsala UTA is

- 1.to arrange different study activities for the members (lectures, study circles, study tours and visits)
- 2.to stimulate research-oriented studies
- 3.to maintain contacts with similar organisations within and outside the country

There are four different kinds of activities:

Separate lectures in various subjects, every fortnight (no other costs than the membership fee)

Lecture and seminar series, ca 10 – 15 each semester, generally 30 – 200 people (costs: ca. 30 euros/semester = 60 euros /year)

- multidisciplinary lecture series (e.g. on history, art history, music history, energy-health-environment, climatic changes, current research themes)

Study circles, ca. 70 each semester, less than 20 people per circle

(costs: ca 30 – 60 euros/semester = 60 – 120 euros/year)

- study circles in religion, philosophy, natural and social sciences etc.
- study circles in languages – both modern languages and e.g. Latin
- study circles in information technology
- research oriented study circles

Study visits and tours, ca. 20 per semester (varying costs)

- study visits in Sweden and abroad, sometimes prepared through a study circle before the trip (e.g. recent trips to Faroe Islands and China)
- trips to cultural activities (theatre and opera performances, concerts, museums, exhibitions etc.)

It is interesting to notice that our oldest members (90 +) are as active in all these three categories of activities as our younger members.

Research-oriented studies

In Uppsala there are many former university teachers among our UTA members who continue to do research after their retirement. Some of the lecture series also deal with current research frontiers. In fact, most UTA's aim at introducing the latest research findings to older people and to be a meeting place for scientific knowledge and life experiences.

Uppsala UTA also aims at stimulating research-oriented studies, which seems to be unusual among the UTA's in Sweden. Uppsala UTA has organised "research oriented study circles", the work of which have been printed in a report series in Swedish - with short summaries in English; the most recent ones have dealt with

- Care and support of elderly people by their next of kin
- What actually happened when we ourselves were young ?
- To become and to be retired – promises of a happy future?

The study "**To become and to be retired** " contains both short essays about personal experiences by 23 members of Uppsala UTA members and reflections and suggestions about future changes in society and in people's attitudes towards retirement. A study like this could well be repeated in other countries and it would be interesting to compare the results.

International contacts – AIUTA and EFOS

In the statutes of the UTA in Uppsala it is stated that we should maintain contacts with other similar organisations both within and outside the country. It is thus important for us to belong to an international organisation of UTA's.

For more than 20 years Uppsala UTA has been a member of **AIUTA /IAUTA (International Association of Universities of the Third Age)** (www.aiuta.asso.fr). Our UTA also has a member on the Governing Board of AIUTA.

Contacts with UTA's abroad is a way of getting new ideas which can enrich our own activities, and the International Committee of the Uppsala UTA is actively seeking contacts through our membership in AIUTA in various ways, with the aims, for instance:

- to participate in research and development projects, together with other UTA's supported e.g. by the EU Grundtvig Programme, or on a Nordic basis
- to participate in AIUTA's international conferences (e.g. in Reims, France, in September 2006)

- to organize bilateral exchanges between groups of members of the Uppsala UTA and members of UTA's abroad (started in October 2005 and May 2006 with Barcelona, Spain)
- to arrange visits to UTA's in connection with other trips organized by the Uppsala UTA (e.g. in November 2005 to China)

Some such activities might be organized in co-operation with other UTA's in Sweden who have indicated an interest in international questions (e.g. Göteborg, Linköping and Västerås).

Uppsala UTA is also a member of **EFOS (European Federation of Older Students at the Universities)** (www.efos-europa.eu). This membership allows our members to participate in EFOS' meetings in any of the member countries: Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Poland, The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Sweden (Uppsala). Uppsala UTA is also represented on the governing board of EFOS.

Facts about Uppsala Senioruniversitet - Uppsala University of the Third Age

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Berliner Akademie für weiterbildende Studien e.V.

Dr. Jutta Arnold

Contribution to the international conference on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UTA of the University of Wrocław

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Berlin will provide a considerable contribution on the topic of the science conference, being in the luxurious position of having 4 universities. They have offered own education activities for years, and started joint efforts recently. (e.g. philosophy in Berlin – one university calender for all).

The universities are:

- The Humboldt-University, more than 300 years old,
- The Technical University, a little younger,
- The Freie (free) University,
- The University of Arts, the youngest one,

And then there is the BERLINER AKADEMIE for further studies, an overall institution, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year.

The BERLINER AKADEMIE organises -by turns at one of the universities –introduction courses for people of middle and older age twice a year – in april and october. About 400 citizens of Berlin and Brandenburg attend these events. On these courses representatives of the universities present their programmes for the target group. The programmes contain the examination of scientific topics and problems. This opens a challenging possibility to create a meaningful and satisfactory new period of life. The mandate for further education of the Higher Education Law in Berlin contains this component.

It is important to know, that interested people go to the BERLINER AKADEMIE for advice and that guest students attend the regular courses and can assemble their own studyprogram.

The participants get the opportunity to gain knowledge in many branches of university research and teaching, and there will also be an exchange between generations, equally important these days. The programmes of the universities differ from each other, but they do have one thing in common: their courses are a place of encounter between young and old.

Some examples of the programs of the centres of further education for the special target group at these universities are:

The „Freie“ University has offered a guest student card program for this special target group for five years already and will develop it further. It contains selected university lectures, studies for further education and exclusive offers for guest students. And there are extra offers of the cultural partners of the university, such as the museums, the foundation of Prussian palaces and gardens, some theatres and concert halls in Berlin.

In 1985 the project „Berlin model-education for activities after professional life“ was founded at the Technical University. Older citizens get a training for volunteer work in the fields of „environment“, „food and health“ and „community and communication“. One year later the pilot project „contact-and information centre for environmantal questions“ started. Its aim is to open the Technical University to active social movements and start projects together. Both models are still very much in demand.

The program of the Humboldt-University is published by the department for profession and science. It contains activities for guest students of nearly all faculties but also overviews of lecture series and courses containing different subjects, the general studies (Studium generale).

There is no limit to age or professional status for guest students, and no A-levels are asked for. The lecturer of the chosen course however has to grant permission to participate.

The Charité, the world-famous medical centre in Berlin, offers something special, the SENIORENUNIVERSITÄT (university for seniors). Since 1991 it has worked together with the BERLINER AKADEMIE and is supported by „pro seniores“, the association for the promotion of the Seniorenuniversität Berlin. The study year goes from september till May. They had more than 1000 registrations this year. Subjects were „medicine through the ages“, „technology serving mankind“ and „news from science“. The courses are free of charge.

The University of Arts offers free concerts by music classes, exhibitions of work from graduates in architecture, painting etc. Every 3 months a new program is published.

Additionally to all these programs, the BERLINER AKADEMIE organizes a Summer University each year in co-operation with one of the universities. This BERLINER SOMMER-UNI lasts for 9 days and welcomes about 500 participants from all over Germany and abroad.

The last few years the universities of Berlin have opened up more and more to all citizens in Berlin and its hinterland. In this way they meet the former mentioned mandate of further education. The offers are diversified and contain mostly:

- Scientificly sound analysis of actual problems
- Scientific research results, published intelligible to all
- Dialogues, discussions and talks about science, society and technology
- Results of teaching music, performing arts and design.

I hope, I could give you a look into the work of the universities and the academy of Berlin of further education. They form a considerable component of further education for older people in Europe.

Berlin Summer University 2005

A short reflection

Dr. Jutta Arnold, Berlin, Germany

After finishing the *Summer University (Sommer-Uni) Berlin 05* it is appropriate to look back at these 9 days of scientific events which were organised in co-operation with the Humboldt University. It is worthwhile because you can speak of a Summer University of superlatives.

It was the 20th in the 20th year of our academy and it had the most extensive programme ever (think of the two enormous excursions) with 441 registrations at the beginning and 480 official participants at the end.

Due to the the public relation work of Dr. Wernicke the preparations and the process of the Summer-Uni-05 were referred to in metropolitan newspapers and regional broadcasting. This resulted in a growing number of daily participants.

The high participation rate at all events including the official last one on september 6th 2005 is noteworthy. The theme „Remembrance as a contribution to the future“ is one of the reasons. It is a contemporary trend to reflect on the past over the presence to the future. We did this by appreciating great accomplishments (from Adam Riese over the brothers Humboldt to Virchow, Koch, Röntgen or Einstein), biographies and accounts of research and experience.

As expected, 75 % of the participants came from Berlin and Brandenburg, 103 were members of our academy and 48 of „pro seniores“. We welcomed a large delegation from the Netherlands and Magdeburg. The other participants arrived from all over Germany and 8 came from Vienna, Prag and Zürich. Perhaps it is also worth mentioning, that 36 married couples shared the acquirement of knowledge and several experienced Summer-Uni participants asked friends and relatives to join in.

They chose from 58 planned scientific events for those, they were especially interested in. We had expected more interest in the afternoon events, organised by the work group „time witnesses“. The lectures of mrs. Mag. Spitaler and mrs. Dr. Erhard of the University of Vienna about psychological problems of the war and afterwar generation, however, were attended and received well.

All lectures enjoyed active participation, people not only listened attentively but also discussed lively in an easy and animated mood, but with exceptionally high discipline. All lecturers appreciated this and told us so.

It was on purpose that the 14 morning lectures and the same number of afternoon lectures varied in level and length. The lecturers adjusted marvellously well to the expectations of the attendants. This applied to the older ones like Ehlers, Brüning, Schröder as well as to the younger ones like Schnalke oder Hierholzer.

The 14 guided tours through museums, collections, memorials, technical, scientific or cultural institutions were organised and lead by excellent experts.

Preparing, organising and carrying out the two great excursions with more than 200 participants to Rechahn and Halle had quite an impact on the capacity and strength of the helping members of the academy. Here I have to thank the deputy chairman Mr. Wedemann, who on his own organised and cared for a second excursion to Halle. He and Mr. Nerlich were of great help with the program in Halle.

Enthousiasm and compliments of the excursion participants will be the well-deserved pay for all, who contributed to these events; selling tickets, organising visits, catering and bus and train rides, nothing went out of control.

Finally some words about two evening events at the University of Fine Arts, for which we have to thank Dr. Erdmann. They were a special sort of meeting of generations. At the opening young artists presented a first-class concert together with Professor Hellwig, the head of the „14th Berlin Summer

Course for Piano“. The closing ceremony was an unforgettable concert event for all of Prof. Rummenh  ller presented the probably youngest students of the University of Fine Arts.

At many follow-up discussions and first evaluating talks at the end of the events participants expressed their appreciation. The Summer-Uni-05 exceeded their expectations widely. Not only the increase in knowledge, but also the amicable atmosphere in and outside the scientific events, the accurate and reliable process and the competent advice and care by the responsible members of our academy will remain an enjoyable memory.

Let's be happy about this compliment of the work done especially by the members of the preparation group of the Summer-Uni-05.

See this as an incentive for the hosts of future Summer-Unis.



The Dresden Senior Academy of Science and Art

Founded October 1994

The Dresden Senior Academy is the follow-up of a voluntary co-operation of about 20 partners: the Technical University, the German Hygiene Museum, the National Art Collection and other colleges and institutions in Dresden. This resulted in a quite unique diversity of courses, which are attended by about 900 students per semester.



The association of friends and sponsors of the Dresden Senior Academy, founded 1995, is legally and financially responsible. The work is done by its voluntary members and the activities of the senior students themselves.



The Senior Academy offers opportunities to all interested citizens after professional life to gain knowledge, to attend artistic experiences and participate actively in knowledge transfer and artistic performances. No individual education preconditions or academic degrees are required.

It enables students to keep or build up social contacts and become actively involved. It is a good remedy against social isolation and a contribution to mental and physical health of older citizens.



The programme of the Senior Academy contains subjects of science, politics, economy, medicine, history, music, art and literature as well as theatre and concerts. There are various groups for the exchange of ideas, e.g. the discussion groups "Generations in dialogue about essential issues" and "Time witnesses", the philosophical and the theatre group and the writing circle.

The programme offers more than 200 events as well as the entire programme of the citizen's university of the Dresden Technical University with about 150 lectures



The whole organization and implementation is done by older volunteers. This social engagement however needs a sound material and financial basis. To secure the existence of the Senior Academy the association of friends and sponsors set up a foundation - „Stiftung der Dresdner Seniorenakademie Wissenschaft und Kunst“. The initial capital will be accumulated by many small foundations.

You will find all information in the internet: www.tu-dresden.de/senior
Contact us under: dsa@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

Senior Studies at the Christian- Albrechts- University in Kiel

Ingrid Dummer, Kiel, Germany

Kiel, situated at the Baltic Sea, a town of about 250.000 inhabitants, is the capital of Schleswig-Holstein, the most northern federal state of Germany. Her university was founded in 1665. At the moment there are 20.000 students in 9 faculties, with 80 fields of study and 140 courses.

When at the end of 1980 the possibility for older students was established at the German universities, our university too opened its gates to this age group.

An older person, interested in scientific further education, has three possibilities:

1. A regular study with the same curriculum and exams as the younger students. About 220 persons attend these courses.
2. Guest student at regular activities without a certificate (about 250 persons). Students have to apply and pay for participation, it has to be authorized and depends on the respective lecturer, who will decide, whether the student can attend or not.
3. Activities for older students only (about 350 persons between 50 and 80 years old, 60% women, 40% men). These are organized by the „association for contactstudy after career and family“, founded especially for this purpose.

The events, lectures and seminars are designed especially for older citizens and carried out by (emeriti) university lecturers. These activities are additional to the university courses and therefore they have to be financed separately. Each participant buys a so called UNICARD, a sort of student ID. He/she pays a basic fee of 30 € plus 15 € or 30 € for each subscribed activity (usually 12 lectures à 1.5 hours per semester). For special activities additional fees can be charged, e.g. for copying. Except for some longer running courses all activities are organized per semester and are published in a special study guide. History, archeology, medicine, theology, philosophy, music, literature, biochemie are some of the offered subjects. The guide also contains a choice of regular activities of the university, that may be of interest for older students and important information about the study.

The unicast-money is used for payments to the lecturers, the study guide and some office costs. Apart from a manager the work is done by volunteers, who are interested in education. They also provide advice. In so doing the university is not burdened financially by our participants. Since lecture rooms are occupied, when regular students don't need them, the participation of older students integrates smoothly into university life. This also contributes to an understanding between generations.

Further I want to emphasize, that lecturers like to work with seniors, because they are very motivated, interested, reliable, disciplined and very grateful for the opportunity of further education.

As older students are interested in and open minded about scientific and social questions and problems and can help to solve them with their professional and life experience, one can state, that they form an important part of society.

Co-operation with other institutes is brought into practice via good contacts to the adult education centre (Volkshochschule) in Kiel. We also participate in a network for older students organized by the university of Ulm. Students carry out joint projects via internet.

Furthermore we have links to other German and European universities of the third age through meetings and exchange of information of different umbrella organizations. The association for contactstudies at the Kiel university is actively involved with important national and international organizations of further education of older people, EFOS being one of them.

Senior Education at the University of Leipzig

Dr. Monika Sosna, Leipzig, Germany

Senior Education has quite a long tradition in Leipzig. In 1979 a gerontologist initiated the so-called veterans' course of lectures at the Karl-Marx-University and created an educational institution, giving the older citizens of Leipzig the opportunity to be intellectually active after retirement.

The offer was designed as a course of lectures especially dealing with questions of old age, but also generally interesting topics came along as e.g. the history of Leipzig or the energy problem of the earth.

The response to the course was so big, that there were waiting lists at times.

After the reunification of Germany (*die Wende*) the institution was renamed „Senior courses“ and the contents were modified to reflect the changes in society. The subject of old age took second place to actual, socially relevant issues.

The renewal of the senior education apparently did not meet all interests and wishes of the senior students in Leipzig. Many of them expressed the urgent request of a „senior study“ that gives the opportunity to actively shape the life after work, e.g. fulfill a long time dream of the youth, follow the interest for historical, artistic, theological, philosophical or scientific questions. There was a strong desire to participate in the „normal“ studies, to talk to young people and study together with them.

The university of Leipzig was very much obliged to meet these wishes. Opening up to interested groups of citizens, who want to participate in science, is after all its general mandate of education.

The senior study courses „Old and Young study together“ started in the winter semester 1993/94.

At first courses in special fields were offered. These in particular met the interests of the older students. A survey among senior citizens in Leipzig held by the association „Grey Lions“ led to this conclusion.

Furthermore information meetings accompanying the studies were held: e.g. introduction to the methodology of scientific research, introduction in using the university library plus a conducted tour.

The participants of the senior study get the status of guest student. They should, however, be older than 50 and should not be afraid of intellectual efforts. A university entrance diploma is not required.



In the winter semester of 1993/94 the first 38 seniors started the study, today there are more than 500.

The senior students form more or less two groups:

- One group wants to have a meaningful life with personal growth after retirement, which for different reasons was not possible before.

- The other group consists of people at the age of 50 to 60. They are the „young elderly“, who were confronted with early involuntary retirement and redundancy due to the change of economical structures and radical changes in eastern Germany. They want to carry on leading active lives.

Lecturers and young students accepted the older students in the first semester already, especially because of their educational engagement. Soon the university would not have liked to miss the senior students in daily university life anymore. They introduce their specific experience of life and profession, they are time witnesses of historical events and they initiate new questions and perceptions. In this way they contribute to the more vivid organization of seminars. This dialogue between the generations is important.

A special booklet of lectures for senior students is published every semester. Each semester the programme and therewith the booklet grew bigger. In the beginning there were 9, now there are 44 departments and faculties opening their courses to seniors.

The range of courses became more diverse over the years, but focusses of interest became clear. Preferences are not only due to a special subject but also to the person of the lecturer.

The senior students are not only consuming listeners, they use their previously acquired knowledge to recognize new contexts. They like learning by research, there is for instance a group „History of Leipzig“, who, with the guidance of a historian, prepares the publishing of an encyclopedia of the history of Leipzig.

Another group of time witnesses saves history events of own experience, that would otherwise get lost for the next generations. Especially the German history of east and west shows how important contemporary witnesses are.

Special events for the old and for young and old together took place in the different semesters, e.g. a seminar on the subject of „learning across generations“ during the European Year of Lifelong Learning. This was meant to show the different experiences and lives of old and young people and to work out links and opportunities for „learning from each other“.

The new information and communication technology, especially the internet, becomes more important nowadays. Assuming that a sensible use of the internet will improve the opportunity of older people to participate in social life it is necessary to get them interested in these systems and support them using the new media. Students' workgroups see the internet as a chance for a new co-operation with other institutions of further education for older people.

The only decisive factor for assembling an individual study programme are the student's interests. This had however as a result that older students did not meet each other at the university. Students should not feel left alone, so possibilities for more contacts were wanted. There was not enough staff at the section „Scientific further education and distance learning“ to solve this problem. The association „Grey Lions“ helped out. One older student who was also involved in the „Grey Lions“ to encourage non-profit activities of citizens between 55 and 60 became the contact person for the senior students. Now it was possible to facilitate communication between students among each other and students and the section „Scientific further education and distance learning“.

At the same time this contact person did some course guidance and helped especially new students to overcome barriers.

With the increase in numbers the students wanted their own representation. At the start of the summer semester 1996 they chose a senior council, whose aims are:

- Representation of the interests of all senior students at the university of Leipzig
- Co-operation with the section „Scientific further education and distance learning“, especially at planning and organising special events
- Study guidance
- Preparation and participation in events that develop the communicative climate among the senior students

- Organisation of mutual visits and exchange with senior students at other universities and institutions in Germany and abroad.

Last year the older students founded an association to promote the senior study at the university of Leipzig.

Within the Bologna process strong lobby groups can play an important part in protecting the continuity of further education for older people at universities and other institutions.

Continuing academic education for seniors at the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg

Magdeburg is the capital of the Land Sachsen-Anhalt in Germany. It has 225.000 inhabitants. Magdeburg is famous because of the emperor Otto and the house of the "Ottonen" and because of Otto-von-Guericke the inventor of the pneumatic pump.

Since 1993 the Otto-von-Guericke-University in Magdeburg has been a full university. Up to 1993 there existed 3 universities in the city of Magdeburg: The Technical University, the Medicine Academy and the Pedagogical University. Today about 15.000 students are studying 60 subjects at 9 faculties. In 2009 the study courses of the faculties will be reorganized into Bachelor and Master studies according to the "Bologna process". The main emphasis lies on technical studies, natural sciences, arts, social and pedagogical studies and medicine.

"Study at Fifty-plus" at the Otto-von-Guericke-University

Already during the times of the German Democratic Republic there was the possibility in Magdeburg of further academic education for older students. Particularly famous was the "Medical Sunday". The Sunday conferences are still enjoying a good response. In 1991 a new initiative was created by offering further education to the target group of people above 50. At first there was a group of 13 persons. Today 410 persons between 45 and 86 years are studying with the slogan "Study at Fifty-plus". About 55% are female and 45% male students.

The aims of the study courses "Study at Fifty-plus" in Magdeburg concern 4 points:

- With a wide range of interdisciplinary studies older persons are offered access to continuing academic education.
- By studying together, young and older students have the possibility to learn from each other and to better understand the problems of the other generation. Mutual acceptance and respect are on a high level. There are many positive examples of mutual co-operation between young and old, e.g. scientific exchange in the seminars, coping with the same problems in courses, conversations before and after the courses, or the organization of the student life.
- The experiences of life and the multiple competencies of older persons will influence the learning processes at the university.
- Gerontology and studies of old age should be given more impetus and should provide ideas how to deal with the older generation.

The offer of studies consists of the following modules:

- Opening of selected courses of the regular studies at faculties and institutions of the university.
- Special courses for older students (language courses, sports, seminars additional to the regular range of studies),
- Meetings with students from other German and European universities,
- Offer of joint projects like "Wissend Wandern", dialogue of generations etc.
- Participation in training courses for activities after working life.
- Older students offer seminars for older students.

The university teachers welcome the participation of older persons in the lectures and seminars. The experience of older persons leads to an increase in the quality of the courses. In the seminars contributions to research projects of older students are presented and elaborated.

Reasons why students participate in the programme "Study at Fifty-plus":

Talks with older students have shown the following reasons:

- From my professional life I am used to a certain level of intellectual work. I don't want to stagnate in everyday life. I want to have some say too.
- Through the studies I gain closer contact with my children and grandchildren. I have some say and I can discuss scientific topics with younger persons.
- I can do things after my professional work which I couldn't do previously. In my professional work I only had one field of activity.

- The knowledge also helps me in my philosophy of life. Now I understand many things better. This type of studies helps me to orientate myself towards new ideas in difficult stages of my life. Understanding and comprehension of things increase if you get older.
- The participation in the courses gives me a better self-confidence. I wish to get to know myself better and develop new ways of thinking.
- Studying increases my spiritual and physical well-being. I need the intellectual challenge.
- I use the acquired knowledge to act as counsellor to firms.
- Some women say that they were always longing to have to possibility to study.

Current questions regarding the future development of studies for older persons:

Demographic development:

In 1989 15.9 million people lived in the GDR. In 2005 there were only 13.5 million left. This trend will continue. There is a steady decline in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxonia and Thuringia. In Saxonia-Anhalt a rapid decline is expected in the next years. In 2020 between 10 and 20% less people will live in the new German Federal States. Thereby the number of young people will decrease by more than one third. 25% of the population is between 50 and 65 years old. The share of the old (more than 80 years) will triple (see social report Fifty-plus - data and facts regarding the social situation of the 50-65 years old in the new Federal States, Berlin 2005).

Development of the studies of older persons during the next years:

The universities in Germany are presently changing more radically than ever since their existence. Three important developments are to be blamed for that:

- The economic development of the universities: Owing to the cutting down on public means, since 1995 models of business management have been increasingly used at the universities. Gradually the economy gets priority. It is said that universities are not enterprises but must be managed as such. What does it mean for senior studies? In view of the priority of the economy it is to be expected that studies of older persons will come under scrutiny on whether they are financially justified. In my opinion it is not the purpose of senior studies to improve the financial situation of the universities. With regard to further education of older persons the universities have to fulfil a public responsibility. Of course it cannot be free of charge but the fees must be moderate so that all those who wish to attend courses can afford it.
- The distinctive image of the universities (internationalizing and excellence). It cannot be expected that education of seniors will become at the core of teaching. But the current demographic development will also have to be taken into consideration at the universities. It is a fact that in the aims of the universities the public responsibility for Lifelong Learning is mentioned. Thus we can hope that the responsibility of the universities will go beyond the initial education.
- The "Bologna process" will create a more uniform room for study and science in Europe. The performance of students must be comparable within the framework of well defined academic degrees. The courses will be offered in modules. According to my opinion also older students can continue to attend courses under the new conditions. Thus the principle "Young and old are studying together" can be further maintained. Older students can also act as teachers in the courses and can help young students to find employment.

What is the future of senior studies under the current social changes?

In the future we have to ask the following **questions**:

- Are there any further things we can do for the education of older persons besides the usual programmes?
- Which models of senior education have a promising future?
- What is the added value of senior education?
- What is possible and what not?

Which study forms are offered?

- The basic idea "Young and old are studying together" is maintained. This is an exciting motto. Studying together shows different values and standards owing to the socialization of students, reduces prejudices, offers the possibility to examine items regarding social development and offers the chance to think together about the planning of the future of our lives.
- Subjects such as history, German studies, philosophy, psychology etc. will be of future interest to older students as up to now. They will not only consume the contents of the lectures but act as tutors or participate actively in some other form in the learning process. Their interest to participate in research projects will increase.
- Profession and culture will become increasingly more important in later age. Transfer of knowledge from older persons to younger colleagues in firms will increase, people with know-how will become counsellors of firms, activities in an honorary capacity will be practised.
- Projects regarding biographies and questions of life-style for older people will be initiated and will become more important. The histories of time witnesses must be saved or else will be lost. People should write down their own history to avoid alteration by the following generations.
- Education in older age means further development of already existing capacities, skills and interests and the acquisition of new ones, thus enabling people to live a self-determined, independent and full life in one's older age. In order to achieve this, knowledge but also techniques to manage everyday life are necessary and new competences should be acquired.
- International networks of people and institutions are becoming more important. Globalization requires a considerable amount of information. Our meeting in Wroclaw had the purpose to intensify the mutual understanding and the co-operation in the field of continuing academic education.

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August 2006