NEWSLETTER

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SILVER CODERS

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LAUNCH OF THE SILVERCODERS PROJECT

Developing the Creativity of Older Adults through Coding

SilverCoders promotes digital literacy improvement through effective learning experiences for adults. The project aims to reinforce the coding abilities of 55+ people.

According to Human Capital and Digital Skills in the Digital Economy and Society Index, 42% of European citizens lack basic digital skills. Additionally, 37% of the workforce, for example farmers, bankers, and factory workers, also lack adequate digital skills, despite the growing need for such skills in all jobs.

Closing the digital divide is a social issue that needs to be addressed through a series of measure to raise awareness of the importance of the e-literacy for employability, competitiveness and participation in society.

There is no doubt that society is facing additional vulnerabilities at this time: the COVID-19 outbreak has not only threatened our lives, it has also affected social networks, access to services, jobs and our well-being. In addition, the overwhelming global crisis has demonstrated the urgent need to rethink education and invest in the workforce.

Currently, more than 90% of professional occupations require digital skills, including programming, while there is also a shortage of qualified staff.

Within this frame of reference, Silvercoders project responds to the call for action to boost sustainable economic growth through the development of human capital development, by providing groups that are typically less confident in their digital skills, such as adults over 55, with the necessary expertise to adapt their functions to the digital and online world.
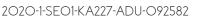
What will SILVERCODERS do?

Silvercoders project brings together a strategic partnership of 6 European organisations from 6 Erasmus+ countries namely Sweden, Portugal, Romania, Italy, Spain and Greece to promote the development of digital skills among older adults, and support this age group (one of the most affected), with a set of tools to make it more adaptable, resilient, and capable of surviving and thriving in the current situation and also in possible future challenges.

The partnership will work together to produce:

■ **A methodological learning framework for building coding skills in adults over 55, based on a "low entry high ceiling approach", with low knowledge requirements** at the beginning and more complex problem-solving challenges for more advanced learners.

■ **A proof-of-concept pilot test for building coding skills in adults over 55;**

■ **Instructional support content** in the form of best practice videos, video-lectures and user guides that will facilitate the integration of the proposed methodologies into existing adult training organisations.

What have we done so far?

The on-line kick-off meeting, 27th of April 2021, officially launched the project. The meeting gave an opportunity for partners to get to know each other, learn more about the respective national contexts and agree on the upcoming tasks. The partnership focused on the first output: the Methodological Digital Learning Framework, aimed at building programming and coding skills among older adults that will take into account the current status quo. This first output of the project also includes the design of the required educational applications/challenges for promoting the development of programming skills. By doing so, it will involve people that work in the creative fields, such as programmers, designers, and content producers to combine digital skills and creativity, which will contribute to boosting the quality, innovation, and recognition of their work, as well as their creative potential.

Next steps

The consortium will now move on towards the second output, which is about promoting the development of programming skills among 55+ adults. This output concerns the implementation and validation activities to ensure that the proposed Output 1 - framework meets the needs of the identified target groups in terms of relevance to learning needs, acceptance, usability, and effectiveness.

Do you want to know more?

To know more about the project please visit our website www.silvercoders.eu, our LinkedIn page www.linkedin.com/silver-coders or follow us on the most popular social networks with #silvercoders.

The website is available in:
English | Spanish | Romanian | Portuguese | Greek | Italian | Swedish

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