



**Ensuring a society for all ages:  
Promoting quality of life and active ageing**  
UNECE 2012 Ministerial Conference, Vienna, Austria

## **Project Title: Sustainable Learning in the Community:**

*Raising awareness of older people's competences  
and identifying new opportunities for learning  
and engagement*

## **The Project description**

The SLIC workshops aimed to empower older people to become active citizens, encouraging the development of skills and competences through formal and informal learning opportunities and directly linking the concepts of lifelong learning and community involvement. An integral part was the personal skills profile and actions plan which participants developed in the course of the one or two day workshop which enabled them to reflect on prior learning experience and to become aware of their existing skills and competences. 18 SLIC workshops with 150 participants were carried out by the Austrian Federal Welfare Organisations (BAG). Before the workshops started, 19 trainers were trained to carry out the SLIC workshops. The project was funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.

## **Why is it considered a good practice**

The SLIC workshops encouraged the participants to become active citizens and to motivate them to take part in formal and informal education and volunteering activities. The skills profile and action plan were useful tools in raising self-esteem, serving as a starting point for volunteering and creating a feel-good factor in the workshop. "It is very useful to acknowledge what we know. The training can help us look back, summarise, release negative things and plan our future." (SLIC workshop participant about the skills profile)

## **Timeline/duration of the project:**

February 1, 2011 – March 30, 2012

## **Lessons learnt**

A substantial part of the learning process was the promotion of active citizenship and active ageing.

It was shown that methods that are presently being used for gaining employment opportunities can also contribute to promoting active citizenship in old age, if adapted accordingly. The project also served to acknowledge prior experiences and formal as well as informal education and support older participants to find new opportunities for learning and volunteering.

## **Relevance for the UNECE region**

The project has shown that the basic tools developed within the SLIC workshops are adaptable to different settings and target groups and the workshops also gave organisations the opportunity to target new groups of learners and to create new offers for older volunteers.

## **Location of the project:**

Austria

## **Contact information, website:**

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