

Old and Young between Tradition and Modern Spirit (24.04.2013, 16-18)

Lecturer: Alexandru Strunga, BEd, MAEd

The dynamics of the European population are definitely changing: the aging phenomena occurring in most of modern post-industrialized societies has a deep impact on European society in terms of educational politics. Lifelong learning can be seen in this context as a strategy targeting the inclusion of seniors in the mainstream concept of education. However, we argue that the Seniors' Education hasn't yet received the recognition it deserves, especially in the field of adult education. Nonetheless, the future of the European Union and its global prestige are depending on the participation of seniors in adult education and on the place of geragogy in the social politics' priorities.

However, the relationship between Old and Young is also becoming increasingly important and in this context, intergenerational education could be the backbone of a postmodern European society that values the tradition as much as it connects with the modern spirit.

We present, in our lecture, several experiences regarding this level of discussion, based on our participation in a series of European projects centered on Danube Region. The aim is to contribute to the process of developing new ideas for collaboration between young and senior citizens, starting from the regional level.