

Rotterdam Meeting Grundtvig Seniorsks November 8 and 9				
Thursday November 8th Theme: critical use of internet technology by senior citizens	Morning	08:30-09:00: registration		
		09:00-09:30: Opening + welcome speech (M1-18)		
		09:30-10:30: Lecture on the use of information technology by seniors + discussion (M1-18)		
		10:30-11:00: Coffee break		
		11:00-12:00: Working group on finding strategies for seniors to make more use of information technology (M1-18, M2-08, M2-09)		
		12:00-12:30: Feedback on plenary work shop (M1-18)		
		12:30-14:00: Lunch		
	Afternoon	14:00-15:30	14:00-15:30	14:00-15:30
		Working group 1: Active senior citizenship through the use of technology (M1-18)	Working group 2: Teachers Open to voting (M2-08)	Working Group 3: Learners Open to voting (M2-09)
		15:30-16:00: Coffee break		
16:00-17:00: Feedback parallel groups + round up day 1 (M1-18)				
Evening	19:00-22:00: Social dinner			
Friday November 9th Theme: promoting senior higher education	Morning	09:30-10:30: Lecture on the impact of learning on the health and happiness of seniors (M1-16)		
		10:30-11:00: Coffee break		
		11:00-12:30	11:00-12:30	11:00-12:30
		Working group 1: Meeting learning demands of seniors; marketing knowledge (M1-16)	Working group 2: Teachers Open to voting (M2-07)	Working group 3: Learners Open to voting (M2-09)
	12:30-14:00: Lunch			
	Afternoon	14:00-15:00: Feedback parallel groups + round up day 2 (M1-16)		
15:00-16:30: Coordinators meeting (M1-16)				
Evening	19:00-22:00: Social dinner			

Working Group and lectures proposal Rotterdam meeting Seniorsks

Lecture and working group: The critical use of internet by seniors

Thursday November 8, morning

Senior citizens in the Netherlands are quickly closing the gap of using internet compared with younger generations. In the age span of 65-75 more than 90% of the seniors use the internet. Together with Luxembourg and some Scandinavian countries, the use of internet among senior citizens in the Netherlands is the highest in Europe. Seniors use the internet for e-mail, finding information about goods and services and recently also for reading newspapers and make use of online banking services.

The question is why in a relatively short period of time so many seniors in the Netherlands start using the internet. Could it be the availability of broad band internet for instance or more user friendly programs, apps or interfaces?

More in depth is the question whether seniors also developed a more critical use of internet technologies? In other words, do they also acquire critical informational literacy? Critical informational literacy is learning to understand who created media, for what purposes, with what message, and for what audiences, as well as analysing how these media represent the world, the symbolic meanings, text, and subtext of media?

During the working group session several groups will explore strategies to engage senior citizens in the broader and more critical use of internet and the way institutes of higher education can contribute to that.

Working group: Active senior citizenship through the use of internet technology

Thursday November 8, afternoon

European society is ageing. The group of senior citizens is growing. This group could be a considerable social, cultural and political power. Somehow they don't seem to be very influential at the same time. The question is whether the internet can be of use to mobilise 'grey power'. Not only in the public domain (politics, policy) but also in the private domain (products, services).

Could we pose, parallel to Martha Nussbaums thesis that good education is a prerequisite for democracy, that the critical use of internet technology nowadays is also a prerequisite for democracy? In other words, can the use of internet helps the formation of active citizenship, especially among seniors? Or is the internet merely a distraction, a diversion, a form of entertainment, or can it rather be a tool of their empowerment and emancipation?

If, as stated above, the use of the internet is a literacy, education should be involved. So, what role can institutions of higher education play in the formation critical digital literacy, to empower seniors?

Lecture: The impact of learning on the health and happiness of seniors

Friday November 9, morning

Prof.dr. Ruut Veenhoven (Erasmus University Rotterdam) is the founder of the World Database of Happiness. As a researcher he's investigating the social conditions for human happiness (as a subjective enjoyment of life). Major questions are:

- What are the best measures of happiness?
- How much differ people in happiness?
- How do these differences come about?
- What are the consequences of enjoying life or not?

Ruut Veenhoven is willing to share his views on happiness and likes to explore with us the implications of education on senior health and the feeling of happiness.

Links:

<http://www2.eur.nl/fsw/research/veenhoven/index.htm>

<http://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl/>

Working group: Meeting learning demands of seniors; marketing knowledge

Friday November 9, morning

Senior higher education in the Netherlands is under pressure. More and more universities and polytechnics close their departments for senior education because it's no longer considered to be a core activity. Hovo Rotterdam is one of the few if not the only institution of senior higher education in the Netherlands that offers senior education on a commercial basis. As such Hovo Rotterdam is not dependent on subsidies and offers a extensive program of about 100 courses with around 4000 subscriptions every year.

I like to share some insights of how we organise this kind of senior education and how we try to reach the market. Interesting to know is that Hovo Rotterdam also spreads it's activities to other nearby cities, like The Hague and Dordrecht.