DCU: Age-Friendly University

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Milestones

"Universities as engines of active and healthy ageing "

September 2021

83 universities & growing

2019
Addressed the UN Working Group on Aging

2015 Inaugural Global Conference "Engaging Ageing"

2014 AFU Coordinator appointed

2011 Developed Ten Principles of an Age-Friendly University

2018

2nd Global Conference

"Engaging Ageing"

2021 Conference "The Future of Ageing in the Silver Economy Nov 1 -3

2012 Launched the Age Friendly University Initiative 2012

"New Frontiers of Ageing – Research, Policy & Practice"

2010 Working Group established with stakeholders

- WHO Age Friendly Cities
- National Positive Ageing Strategy
-National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2010

AGE FRIENDLY PRINCIPLES

Age Friendly Principles

DCU has identified 10 Principles for an Age Friendly University:

- To encourage the participation of older adults in all the **core activities** of the university, including educational and research programmes.

- To promote personal and career development in the second half of life and to support those who wish to pursue "**second careers**".

- To recognise the **range of educational needs** of older adults (from those who were early school-leavers through to those who wish to pursue Master's or PhD qualifications).

- To promote **intergenerational learning** to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.

- To widen access to **online educational opportunities** for older adults to ensure a diversity of routes to participation.

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AGE FRIENDLY PRINCIPLES

cont…

- To ensure that the university's **research agenda** is informed by the needs of an ageing society and to promote public discourse on how higher education can better respond to the varied interests and needs of older adults.

- To increase the understanding of students of the **longevity dividend** and the increasing complexity and richness that ageing brings to our society.

- To enhance access for older adults to the university's range of **health and wellness** programmes and its **arts** and **cultural activities**.

- To engage actively with the university's own **retired community**.

- To ensure regular **dialogue** with organisations representing the interests of the ageing population.

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Our free computer classes for older people delivered by the Masters Students

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E-learning and Lifelong Challenges

- Literacy and Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Ditching the jargon
- Equity – getting on –line/internet, getting the right device and having the money to buy a device.
- Also need to be cognisant of invading peoples homes.
- How to cultivate social interaction and virtual relationships
- **Need more investment from governments – not just lip service- budget cuts are implemented at lifelong learning programmes first as many universities do not recognise the need for lifelong learning because of competing interests at a national level**.
- Lecturers need to engage in a reciprocal process and exchange with students
- There is a need to understand the needs of multigenerational learners

"*I thought I would let you know that thanks to my participation in the programme I have now commenced a BA JH course as a (very) mature student in English and Human Development. I hit the tender age of 67 tomorrow so better late than never! I thoroughly enjoyed sitting in on English and Geography modules and it stirred an unknown desire in me to go further. While I'm a bit apprehensive I am also excited to have this opportunity. So without your excellent programme I would not be starting on this path so thank you*!"
AFU Participant (Sept 28th 2020)

An example of how engaging with the AFU can encourage older people to continue on a learning pathway.

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Information on Ireland on Barriers for Older People to engage in E-learning

47% of adults in Ireland do not have basic digital skills1;

In 2019, 33% of people in Ireland aged between 65 and 74 had never been online2;

Those over 65 engage with ICT less than other groups:

• Less than half of over-65s own a smartphone (47 per cent)3,

• 43 per cent of those aged over 65 use their phone to access data3.

• 65 per cent of those aged over 65 own a phone which is over three years old3

Some reference material from Ireland

Digital News Report Ireland 2021

https://fujomedia.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/15651_DNR_2021_Web.pdf

RTÉ AND COVID -19 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND MEETING
PUBLIC NEEDS

https://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/inline-files/report_rte-and-covid19_report.pdf

Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy 10-Year Strategy for Ireland.
https://www.solas.ie/alnd-strategy/

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UN Day of Older People – October 1st – Digital Equity

Objectives of #UNIDOP2021:

•Ageism & Human Rights
To bring awareness of the importance of digital inclusion of older persons, while tackling stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination associated with digitalization taking into account sociocultural norms and the right to autonomy.

•Sustainable Development
To highlight policies to leverage digital technologies for full achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

•Access & Literacy
To address public and private interests, in the areas of availability, connectivity, design, affordability, capacity building, infrastructure, and innovation.

•Cybersecurity & Ethics
To explore the role of policies and legal frameworks to ensure privacy and safety of older persons in the digital world.
•Accountability
To highlight the need for a legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons and an intersectional person-centered human rights approach for a society for all ages.

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How do we engage:

- Provide training to over 1700 older people to use technology and support them until their competency improves

- Engage older people in innovative projects to enhance their skills such as
- ERASMUS
- Traditions, Recipes and Cuisines of Europe Using Smartphone
https://traceus.eu/

- Implement the Ten Principles of an Age-Friendly University across campus and regularly review it to ensure they are being implemented.

- Explore all opportunities to engage age-inclusivity on campus.

- Visit our website www.dcu/ie/agefriendly

And finally….

Nov 1 -3 Engaging Ageing 21
The Future of Ageing and the Silver Economy

Virtual Conference over 3 days
Accepting Abstracts until October 11th.
Great line up of speakers over three days – World Bank/OCED and leaders in industry and academia

https://engagingageing.com/

AfU Age-friendly University Global Network
A DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE POSITIVE AND ACTIVE AGEING

Thank You!

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