

IMPACT OF DIGITALLY CENTRED INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING AS BLENDED TRAINING FOR FARMERS

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The intergenerational learning has been successfully tested and implemented in urban centres across Western Europe yet has little to no experience in rural and farming communities. A recently concluded project aiming at exchanging digital abilities and practice for local knowledge used the intergenerational learning as base for progressing in the use of digital tools in agriculture. The task of equipping the less young farmers with the habits and the basic operation of digital devices and different applications to ease their current activities in agriculture went far beyond the expected difficulties adding the lockdown of the pandemic over the planned implementation. The success and impact of the implementation is analysed and presented as out of ordinary achievement highlighting the benefits for farmers, extension workers, facilitators and the international project team. Important lessons were learnt during the methodological and practical preparation as well as during the delivery and the follow-up activities. The analysis results feed the grounds for further dissemination and use of the approach indicating the cornerstones and the critical elements to address. A particular interest of the approach is represented by the possibility to mobilise and exchange important amounts of local knowledge held by the less young participants in the group for the immediate benefit of the younger farmers far better equipped with digital knowledge yet in high demand for local and localised knowledge.