

# Enabling Active Aging and Active Citizenship by Intergenerational and Online Learning

Dianne Delchau, [dianned47@gmail.com](mailto:dianned47@gmail.com)

U3A Online, Griffith University, Australia

Anna Grabowska, [anka.grabowska@gmail.com](mailto:anka.grabowska@gmail.com)

PRO-MED sp. z o.o., Gdańsk University of Technology, Poland

Don Passey, [d.passey@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:d.passey@lancaster.ac.uk)

Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Valerie Wood-Gaiger, [valwoodgaiger@aol.com](mailto:valwoodgaiger@aol.com)

Learn with Grandma, United Kingdom

# What is the workshop about?

- 2012 was the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. It aimed to encourage debate on the challenges related to growing older, and at the same time raise the awareness and recognition of how older people can contribute to society.
- 2013 is a year of Active Citizenship and is oriented to broadening participation of citizens in the life of their communities, and thus in democracy, in terms of activity and decision-making.
- In our workshop we would like to prove that active aging and active citizenship can be supported by intergenerational learning and online learning.

# Why is it important?

- There is very often a lack of communication between old and young generations. It can be caused by a lack of common understanding of the modern ICT environment around us.
- We propose to help seniors by creating intergenerational learning voluntary support groups.
- We believe that young and old generations can learn a lot from each other.
- Not only the technology gap between the generations but also growing levels of mobility and high unemployment (especially among the young and people over 50) can lead to social exclusion.
- We want to encourage social interaction between generations by sharing and preserving skills, knowledge, history, culture, languages and traditions.

# The content

- The workshop will start with YouTube films, recorded by Valerie Wood-Gaiger.
- Then Anna Grabowska and Don Passey will share lessons learnt from projects, some funded through the Lifelong Learning Programme ICT for Seniors and Intergenerational Learning.
- Next Dianne Delachau will introduce U3A online, which is a low-cost educational solution hosted by Griffith University offering more than 42 courses online and allowing older and isolated individuals to keep their mind active, to study interesting subjects, to improve their knowledge, to learn at their own pace from everywhere and whenever it suits, to meet other older people online with similar interests.
- The Implementing Learn with Grandma concept – will be used as a frame for group work.

# **Dianne Delchau**

**Dianne Delchau** is President of U3A Online, a member of U3A Alliance Australia and a member of U3A Asia Pacific Alliance Steering Group.

She qualified as a teacher in South Australia in 1967.

She has been actively involved with U3A for the past 16 years and specifically with U3A Online for the past 8 years.

# **Anna Grabowska**

**Anna Grabowska** was awarded her PhD from Gdansk University of Technology, and has a Masters in Science degree in Applied Informatics from De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

She is an e-learning specialist for the PRO-MED sp. z o. o., Head of the Autodesk Training Centre at Gdansk University of Technology, Poland, an advisor for U3A online, and vice-chair of IFIP WG 3.6.

# Don Passey

**Don Passey** is Professor of Technology Enhanced Learning and Co-Director of the Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning in the Department of Educational Research at Lancaster University, UK.

His research spans uses of digital technologies to support learning, for those in compulsory education, those who find it hard to learn, and those seeking employment and training.

He is vice-chair of IFIP WG 3.7, and has been a member of IFIP since 1994.

# Valerie Wood-Gaiger

**Valerie Wood-Gaiger** is Founder of Learn with Grandma (LwG), an NGO that encourages and initiates intergenerational learning projects and activities.

LwG, using social networking, now has 15 LwG groups spanning from the Ukraine to Uganda.

Based in Wales, Val is a Champion for IL with the Beth Johnson Foundation.

Val, who speaks to organisations like U3A and at many international conferences, is a Member of the British Empire (MBE).





# Val's presentation

- Learn with Grandma (2013). *Grandma talks to teachers in Uganda*. Accessible at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epWhJEBXOPk>
- [Learn with Grandma May newsletter 2013](#)



# Anna's presentation

- Active Citizens – <http://utw.moodle.pl>
- [e-senior magazine online](#)
- [The project ForAge](#)
- [The project MATURE](#)
- On Facebook
  - [Learn with Grandma – Gdansk](#)
  - [the MATURE project](#)



# Don's presentation

- Learning has used a traditional 'apprentice' model (Brown, Collins and Duguid, 1989)
- Having time, opportunity and interest in developing digital technology skills supports young people becoming 'digital natives' (Prensky, 2001)
- Young people (particularly those in schools) acquire skills and knowledge about technologies that go well beyond those of their teachers (Crook and Harrison, 2008)
- But not all young people have the same range of digital technology skills and capabilities, or skills that relate to particular aspects of learning (Sánchez, Salinas, Contreras and Meyer, 2011)
- A European Commission-funded project "The Knowledge Volunteers" (2012) describes the roles of young people in supporting digital skills and practices of older people, in school settings (<http://tkv.mondodigitale.org/>)
- A community project involving eight primary schools and over 2,500 homes, where students supported parents and older people, indicated the need for clear project intentions and aims, a monitoring and feedback process, project leader management, as well as senior leader support within each school (Passey, 2011)



# Dianne's presentation



U3A<sup>TM</sup>  
online  
[www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au)

U3A Online  
*Education by and for older people*

[www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au)



1

The slide features a blue background with a faint world map composed of small white dots. In the top left corner is the U3A Online logo, which includes the text 'U3A' in a stylized font, 'TM' to its right, 'online' below it, and the website address 'www.u3aonline.org.au' at the bottom. The main text 'U3A Online' is centered in a large white font, with the tagline 'Education by and for older people' below it in a smaller, italicized white font. At the bottom left, the website address 'www.u3aonline.org.au' is written in blue. In the bottom right, there is a photograph of an older man and woman looking at a laptop. The number '1' is centered at the very bottom of the slide.

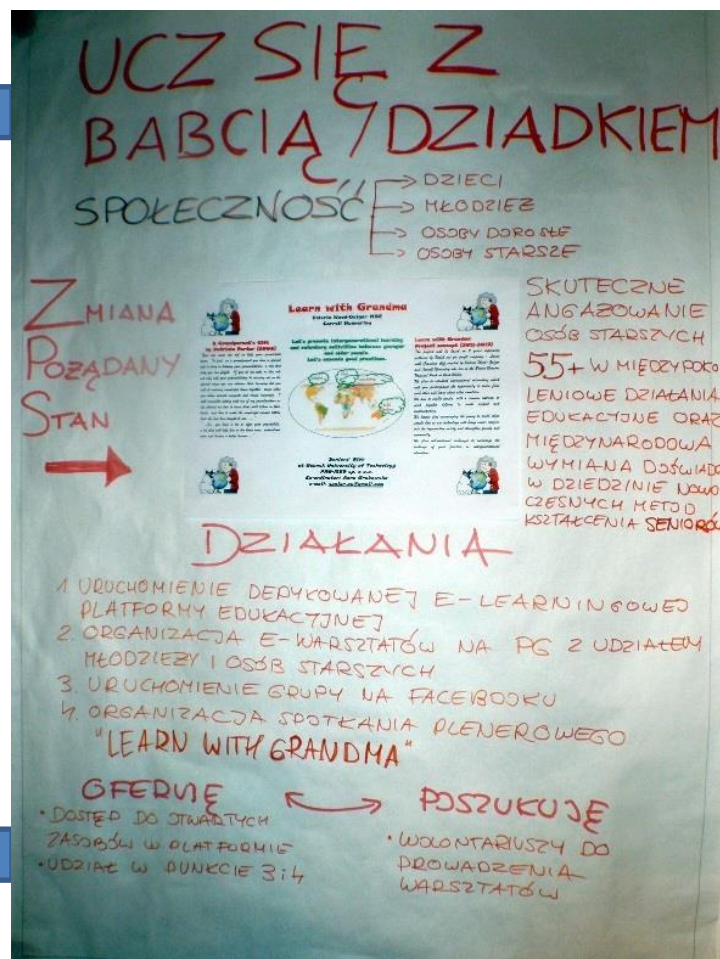
# Let's try to propose a new project

- Preparing a poster in a group of 5.

The pattern for a new project proposal:

- The project title
- The groups addressed
- The change proposed; conditions to be fulfilled
- Activities
- What is the offer
- What we are looking for

# An example poster - Learn with Grandma



Project title

Target group

The change proposed

Activities

We are offering

We are looking for

# THANK YOU AND CONTACT US:

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