



EARTHE

Activity 2

Digital toolkit for innovative curriculum and methodological development

Module 1 – Growth mindset

Method 6 – Group projects

Case study



Module 1 – Growth Mindset

Case study 1. - Bridging Generations Through Collaboration: Group Projects in Non-Formal Adult Education in Cyprus

Related Method - Group Projects

Context and Background

Organisation: Adult Education Centres (AECs)

Target Group: Older adults and young educators

Scope: Non-formal adult education programme

The AECs offer non-formal adult education programmes aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of adult learners. These programmes often involve collaborative learning approaches, including group projects, to foster active participation and skill development.

Problem / Challenge Presented

The programme aimed to address the need for intergenerational learning and the development of soft skills among adult learners. Challenges included encouraging older adults to participate in collaborative activities and fostering effective communication across different age groups.

Actions Taken / Method Applied

This case study provides an example of group projects involving intergenerational collaboration. Namely, the aforementioned group projects involved facilitated group activities, whereby older adults and young educators worked together on tasks, promoting knowledge exchange and skill development. These group projects were designed to encourage active participation, enhance communication skills, and foster mutual respect between different age groups.



Outcomes and Results

- a) As a result of participating in group projects, participants reported improved communication abilities through collaborative tasks.
- b) Older adults showed greater involvement in learning activities.
- c) Both older adults and young educators developed new skills through the group projects.
- d) The collaborative nature of the projects led to a more dynamic learning environment, benefiting all participants.

Lessons Learned

As a result of participation in group projects, the following lessons became evident:

- a) Clear guidelines and objectives are essential for successful group projects.
- b) Encouraging interaction between different age groups can enhance learning experiences.
- c) Effective facilitation is crucial to guide group dynamics and ensure productive outcomes.

These lessons highlight the significance of thoughtful planning and support in implementing group projects in adult education settings.

Key Success Factors

The following factors contributed to the successful implementation and outcomes of the group projects:

- a) Well-defined goals for each group project.
- b) Skilled facilitators to guide and support participants.
- c) Creating an environment where all participants feel valued and included.

Challenges Encountered and How They Were Addressed

The following challenges have been recognised:

- a) Participants had varying levels of skills and experience.

Solution: Facilitators provided tailored support to meet individual needs.

- b) There were differences in communication styles between age groups.

Solution: Facilitators planned activities to bridge communication gaps and encourage mutual understanding.



Applicability / Recommendations for Educators

It is recommended that one should:

- 1) Design group activities with clear objectives and roles.
- 2) Create and / or encourage opportunities for different age groups to work together.
- 3) Offer guidance and support to navigate group dynamics and challenges.

By incorporating these strategies, educators can enhance the effectiveness of group projects in adult education settings.