

European Map of Intergenerational Learning

Newsletter



EMIL is represented at an event at Stormont Parliament Building – home of the Northern Irish Assembly



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European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

Update on EMIL

Over the past few months, I am pleased to report that we have spent a considerable amount of time working on the of EMIL's latest thematic working group – translational research. Working in partnership with Generations United (US), EMIL aims to build up a repository of international publications which will provide network members with a wider variety of resources and broaden our collaborative learning network further.

Due to increasing interest in EMIL from a variety of individuals and organisations throughout Europe, we have added an additional 14 countries to our EMIL member's map. This last quarter has seen the highest record of enquiries and illustrates the strength and breadth of our membership base – in fact, EMIL has just added its 300th member. Welcome to all new members!

Finally, in preparation for EY 2012, EMIL has drafted a response and has outlined a plan to coordinate a number of successive roundtable discussions throughout Europe that will culminate in a cross-cultural comparison that would serve to detail a national and pan-European perspective of intergenerational relationships and engagement and map out the future priorities and agenda for EMIL.

For more information about this project, contact Julie Melville at EMIL@bjf.org.uk

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Make sure to check out the [EMIL website](#) for upcoming news on events scheduled for EY 2012. If you have information about upcoming 2012 events that you would like to promote on our website, please contact the EMIL coordinator.

An INTRODUCTION to Translational Research and its application to Intergenerational Learning

“Breaking down the barriers between research, policy, practice and theory – particularly in terms of the language we use – is key if we are able to fully realise the potential of this developing field” (Bernard, 2006: 14). Typically, researchers concentrate on the analysis and evaluation of practices whereas practitioners focus on the planning and implementation of practices. These two worlds – often made of different rationales, languages, procedures, standards, and outcomes – tend to be considered distinct realms within the division of scientific labour. The words by Professor Miriam Bernard help us to present the issue at stake and consider: What could we do to bring the well acknowledged gap between research and practice in the intergenerational field?

EMIL's latest thematic working group – Translational Research has produced a concept paper that focuses on translational research as one opportunity to be responsive to the challenges outlined above. Other options may include fostering partnership arrangements or consensus building between researchers and practitioners, and promoting community-based participatory research.

Translational research – as far as it is connected to practice – refers to the effort geared at making research findings understandable by practitioners who might need to use them. “...Translating research to practice has meant summarizing research findings and disseminating them in ways perceived as ‘palatable’ to practitioners, typically in the form of fact sheets or issue briefs” (CITRA, 2006: 1). Therefore, translational researchers do play a mediation role: their focus on connecting research and practice force them to become ‘bridgers’ between the two worlds. Of course, this is a two-way mediation: the translational effort may go from intergenerational researchers to intergenerational practitioners and vice versa. The reality is that a lack of mutual understanding and collaboration does exist.

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European Projects, Programmes & Partnerships from the field:

MIND THE GAP: Three European Generations

This project examines the typical characteristics of pivotal generations in the development from post-war Europe up until today. These are the generations 1966-1975 (from post-war to Cold War), 1985-95 (building the European house) and from 2005 on (global 'network kids'). Sub-topics of interest are values (religion, education, behaviour, solidarity, and culture), family (gender roles, family life, food, habits, tradition, and economic situation), leisure (music, cinema, media, arts, fashion, sports and other part-time activities) and visions of the future (the European house in the global village, employment, the financial crisis, environmental issues, self-sustaining development, peace-keeping, and impact of the digital revolution). The project will be divided into four phases (one for each semester). In each phase, one of the sub topics will be dealt with – e.g. values of the three generations will be examined in the first semester. Thus, we would like to raise the students' awareness of what is common among these three generations and where they differ both in the different countries and in Europe and what they can learn from this development for the future of the EU. [Click here](#) for more information about this project.

Trasversale srl, is a private research and training centre with more than 20 years of experience in the generational and relational divide in the family business SME context. It works through the integration of intergenerational dialogue to guarantee the continuity of employment, 'know how' and experience among generations.

Trasversale srl in partnership with IRFI - Roman Institute for Entrepreneurial Training, has launched a trans generational project that will benefit 400 students (18 years old) belonging to last year of 20 ITFS (the equivalent of BTECs in UK). The training programme will deepen the constraints and potentiality of relational and behavioural aspects existing in the family that can endanger the continuity and the future of micro family handcrafts business. In this way drop out and unemployment rates among teens will be reduced through their involvement in family activities. [Click here](#) for more information about this project.

Osservatorio Sociale's Project: TIMEBANK

A time bank is a system based on the "time" in which people exchange activities, services and knowledge, helping in daily activities, intersecting relationships and restoring good neighbourly relations. The time bank builds networks of relationships between individuals and institutions, is able to fight the growing risks of social exclusion and break the downward spiral of marginalisation and loneliness. Anyone can join, as each has the potential to offer something useful. Each member is a carrier of values without discrimination between old and young, poor and rich, non-EU and EU, disabled and able-bodied. The exchange process of the time Time Bank develops relationships, facilitates interpersonal relations and more active participation of citizens in the development of communities by improving the quality of life.

A new time bank project "The Solidarity in Time" has the following objectives:

- Knowledge of building relationships and collaboration between users;
- Reduce the generation gap through the exchange of ideas and experiences;
- Established between the parties, close interpersonal relationships aimed at improving the quality of life;
- Meet the needs of applicants for goods and services not always available on the market;
- Bring together and coordinate the major time banks in the province of Bari, Italy.

Promoters of this initiative include:

- C.R.A.P. – Association promoted by provincial employees for recreational purposes;
- A.P.A.P. – Association founded by retired employees gathered for recreational purposes;
- UNI.P.O.P. – Demotic University Pugliese for the third and free age.

For more information about this project, [click here](#).

European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

Other News

Intergenerational Programmes in Ireland: An Initial Overview

Caroline Finn and Thomas Scharf
Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, National University of Ireland Galway.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in Ireland in developing initiatives that bring older and younger generations together. Up until this point there has been marked absence of any attempt to draw together information on the nature of intergenerational practice in Ireland. In order to bridge this gap the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, in collaboration with Age Action Ireland and the Beth Johnson Foundation, carried out a mapping exercise of intergenerational projects in Ireland. As a result of this exercise a report entitled 'Intergenerational Programmes in Ireland: an Initial Overview' was compiled. The report can be downloaded from the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology website. This report is just an initial overview however, and it is planned to update the report later in the year.

To download a copy of this report, [click here](#).

EMIL has just added its' 300th Member!

Arts Across Europe is EMIL's 300th member

Arts Across Europe offers a practical personalised cross curricular and creative learning experience to you and your children. Every child has the opportunity to and extends their skills across a range of Arts, and ICT media through practical workshops.

Arts Across Europe works with schools to: extend and enhance the national curriculum, provide cross curricular linking opportunities, stimulate motivation, promote inclusion, encourage creativity, create global citizens, and raise self-esteem.

For more information on the project, [click here](#).

An Introduction to Translational Research *continued*

More developed in the field of Medicine, translational research has not been introduced in the intergenerational field yet. As VanderVen (2011:25) has reminded us recently, "The concept of translational research might be further examined for proper adaptation to the intergenerational field. Because the actual procedures for the translation, particularly because translational research is a borrowed concept, have not yet been defined for the intergenerational field, there is a challenge to it".

We, members of the EMIL thematic group, would like to tackle this challenge. Through EMIL's thematic working group - [Translational Research on Intergenerational Issues](#), it is our intention to promote intergenerational research focusing on intergenerational learning initiatives (both programmes and policies). How do we plan to achieve this? By:

- Developing a translational repository of key research materials accompanied by an explanation of implications for practitioners;
- Asking researchers in the field to reflect on the practical consequences their work may have for intergenerational practitioners;
- Producing translational literature reviews around areas of concern to practitioners;
- Contacting intergenerational practitioners to find out what their expectations and needs are regarding intergenerational research.

For more information about this thematic working group and a full version of this concept paper, contact: marianos@ugr.es or visit [EMIL's thematic working group pages](#) for resources available on this theme.

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Events

Bridging the Age Gap: Working together to develop rural communities

European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary 15-22, April 2012.

The event aims to promote intergenerational solidarity in rural youth work as part of the 2012 European Year of Intergenerational Solidarity. By working together across generations we can more effectively to support sustainable rural communities, creating a better future for rural younger people.

“Bridging the age gap” aims to promote the social inclusion of rural younger people through cross-generational projects. Participants will gain practical skills in project management as well as confidence to act as youth actors in their local communities. **Seminar aims include:**

- To promote intergenerational solidarity in rural youth work
- To promote the social inclusion of young people through cross-generational projects

For more information or to download an application about this spring seminar, [click here](#).

EMIL to partner with Generations United

EMIL has agreed to work with Generations United (US) to create a resource that is expected to be a useful tool for researchers as well as practitioners and policy makers interested in showing the impact of intergenerational practice. While EMIL is interested in developing a translational research ... GU has committed to creating an on-line Intergenerational Evaluation Research Bibliography with the aim to create a much needed addition to GU's bank of resources.

Stay tuned for more information about this international collaboration!

Events continued

Europe Fast Forward EESC Annual Video Challenge

The European & Social Committee have invited younger people (18-30) across the 27 EU member states to participate in a video challenge that encourages video creativity and the use of social networking. The aim is to be creative and show us what Europe means to you” Since 2012 is EU Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, incorporating members of older generations into the video production teams is encouraged

Entry is free and prizes for the winners will be awarded at a ceremony in Brussels in March 2012

[Click here](#) to learn more about this event and register.

Intergenerational Geographies: Spaces, Identities, Relationships, Encounters Conference

This conference, organised by the Citizenship and Belonging Research Cluster School of Geography – University of Leeds, will take place in Leeds, England from Thursday May 10th to Friday May 11th, 2012.

This conference is designed to explore advances and developments in research on the geographies of intergenerational relationships. The event will include key note panels and a series of paper sessions on:

- Migration and intergenerational relations
- Spaces of intergenerational encounter
- Generational identities during times of economic crisis
- Patterns and processes of age segregation/integration
- Gender, sexuality, and intergenerational relationships
- The intergenerational transmission, negotiation and contestation of values, beliefs, faiths and practices
- Intergenerational justice
- Strategies and methodologies for researching intergenerationality.

For more info, email Nancy Worth: n.worth@leeds.ac.uk