

Erasmus+ project

Senior Learning in the Digital society

(SeLiD) Report 2020

TU Chemnitz, Gerontopsychology and Competences

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in Cooperation with

Emporia GmbH Linz (Austria)

KOMSA AG Hartmannsdorf /Chemnitz

Seniorenbeirat der Stadt Chemnitz

Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverband Sachsen e.V.

Greetings from Chemnitz

with 80.000 inhabitants 60+ (35%)



The current situation in education for elderly people since the beginning of the Corona pandemic in March 2020 in Germany

- Almost all educational programs at the Senior College of the TU Chemnitz have been suspended until now, all teaching rooms at the University have been closed
- Digital communication in the Erasmus project group (Video meetings)
- 3 working groups for Learning by research are working in rooms outside the university with 8-12 members per group
- Courses for beginners and experienced participants with less than 5 members are working in seniors meeting centers and more-generation- houses in the city center of Chemnitz

Survey – Important answers

What could make it easier for you to use smartphones yourself?

- Declaration by other people
- Easy to understand instructions
- Try it out without buying it
- Smartphones specially designed for older people

Survey – Important answers

What are the barriers to using digital technologies?

- It is too complicated to use
- I am not interested in that
- Too expensive
- The time required is too great
- No
- I have no one to help me with questions
- Hard to read displayed text

Target groups in the previous smartphone courses

- 1 Older people without their own smartphone and without any experiences with smartphone, for motivation – **(Trial course)**
- 2 Older people with their own smartphone but lacking skills in using it, with knowledge deficits - **(Beginners course)**
- 3 Older people with their own smartphone who want to gain more knowledge about the smartphone and its possible uses - **(Advanced Course)**
- 4 Regular exchange of experiences **(Smartphone Round Table)** for everyone and also especially for the blind and visually impaired

Example of a Smartphone Trial Course



Max. 10 participants
with and without own
smartphone

Reduce fears,
motivate

Showing
opportunities

Beginners Course



Too many
participants at the
beginning, reduced
from 20 to 12

Proceed slowly

Practice, practice,
practice

Quote from a user:

Carefree trying is helpful!

Experiences - Beginners Courses

- The participants have a variety of older smartphones – mostly given by their children – with very few operating instructions
- Often there are fears in the participants
- Common problems are understanding the English technical terms
- **Basic knowledge of the Internet is sometimes completely lacking**
- **The needs of the participants were asked and the courses were then designed in terms of content and method**

Target group: Advanced participants already have a smartphone, there is still a „thirst for knowledge“



The praise of the participants motivates us!



Smartphone Round table



Get – together
is very popular,
but is currently
suspended
due to Corona

Smartphone Round Table

- **For interested participants with a good knowledge and skills for using a smartphone**
- Challenges for the moderators are different types of smartphones with different software (partly outdated versions that can no longer be updated)
- **Questions and problems are often very specific**
- So far, all questions have been clarified, if not always immediately
- There is still a great need for these smartphone round tables
- **Recommendations for new purchases of smartphones were asked, Emporia devices or other devices with the Emporia App were tested**

Technical support from the company Emporia Linz (Austria)

- Provision of a case with 10 smartphones including a training manual and teaching material for use in the trial course



Cooperation with the company KOMSA AG (Kommunikation Sachsen AG)

- KOMSA cooperates worldwide with partners in the field of mobile radio technologies, e.g. with EMPORIA Linz
- The KOMSA company supports us with a WLAN-Router and consultation



Other desired educational content

- Coupling with external devices, e.g. PC
- Print fotos
- Pay at the cash register and online with your smartphone
- Online banking rather difficult because of different bank details and then intervention in personal areas is necessary
- Ticket purchase with smartphone (events, tickets...)



Lecture in the Senior College of the TU Chemnitz in front of about 700 participants in 2019



- The course instructor Eberhard Klotz presents the smartphone courses for elderly
- Professor Georg Jahn presents technology for older users

Lecture in the Saxon State Center for political education in Dresden

Theme:

- You`re never too old for the Internet!
- How digital participation for older can work
- Demands of the elderly on politicians regarding digitization



European cooperation

Lecture on the German-Polish
Seminar in the International
Meeting Center Ostritz / Kloster
Marienthal for senior
ambassadors from

- Poland
 - Germany
- in 2020



Lecture at the EFOS conference at the University of Wrocław / Poland

European EFOS project (ERASMUS+ project)
“Senior`s Learning in the Digital Society” (SeLiD)



Project partner

1. Poland
2. Slovakia
3. Sweden
4. Netherlands
5. Spain
6. England
7. Germany

TV Report in the „Umschau“ of the MDR 2020



Experience report of an 87 year old hunter using the Emporia smartphone and an exemplary presentation of the emergency call