



CIVIS Alliance – Open Lab Project

Impact Assessment Report

01 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Title of the project** Intergenerational Learning Communities
- Project coordinator:** Dr. Aspasia Dania, Associate Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)
- Universities involved** National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece) – Coordinator
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)
Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (Austria)
- Hub theme** Society, Culture and Heritage
- Duration of activities** April 2025 to June 2026
- Place of the activities** Athens (Greece), Salzburg (Austria), Madrid (Spain), and community-based partner sites across participating regions.

02 – PARTNERS/TARGET AUDIENCE

Number of internal and external stakeholders involved in and impacted by the project

INTERNAL (All CIVIS universities)				EXTERNAL (All CIVIS cities/regions)	
Academics	Researchers	Students	Admin personnel	Citizens	Other - please specify
28	30	110	12	120	- Children and youth: 125 - Educators and teachers: 42 - Community practitioners and artists: 10 - Representatives of NGOs and public organizations: 8

Non-university associations and organisations that have been involved in the project

ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANISATIONS		
Name	Country	Description
Directorate of Primary Education for Athens C	Greece	Preschool education policy makers
Directorate of Primary Education for Athens A	Greece	Preschool education policymakers
6th primary school of Marousi	Greece	Primary school education partner
3rd secondary school of Ilioupolis	Greece	Secondary school education partner
Department of Preschool Education	Greece	Community arts and creative participation

School of Physical Education & Sport Science	Greece	Artistic swimming and community participation
Hellenic society for the study and research of ageism	Greece	NGO
Alzheimer Athens	Greece	NGO
Mission Anthropolos	Greece	NGO
Athens Nursing HOme	Greece	NGO
Praxis volksschule Salzburg HTL Salzburg	Austria	Primary school High school with vocational training
Universidad de Mayores	Spain	Community engagement and intergenerational learning
Ayuntamiento de Tres Cantos	Spain	Policymakers
Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián de los Reyes	Spain	Policymakers

03 – PROJECT IMPACT

Social dimension

The Open Lab successfully created meaningful opportunities for interaction between generations that would otherwise rarely meet in everyday life. Through community dance and music initiatives, intergenerational kindergarten projects, age-inclusive artistic swimming activities, storytelling workshops, and community engagement events, the project brought together children, young adults, older adults, educators, students, researchers, artists, and community stakeholders.

The project promoted social inclusion, reduced age-related stereotypes, strengthened empathy, and created opportunities for reciprocal learning. More than [insert number] participants engaged directly in project activities, while numerous local stakeholders contributed to co-designing and implementing community-based initiatives. The project paid particular attention to inclusion, ensuring participation across age groups, social backgrounds, and levels of prior experience.

A key achievement was the development of sustainable intergenerational relationships and partnerships that continued beyond individual events, contributing to stronger community cohesion and civic participation.

Cultural dimension

The project significantly enhanced cultural exchange and knowledge-sharing by bringing together diverse forms of expertise, lived experience, and creative expression. Activities incorporated arts-based, movement-based, and community-based learning approaches, including intergenerational dance, music, storytelling, illustrated books, photovoice-inspired activities, and collaborative creative projects.

The Open Lab generated new opportunities for cultural participation and accessibility by engaging individuals who may not traditionally participate in university-led activities. The project also produced a range of practical resources, including an Intergenerational Learning Communities Toolkit, a Practical Guide for Designing Intergenerational Programs, participant certificates, dissemination materials, videos, photographs, and public events.

These outputs contribute to the long-term dissemination and transferability of intergenerational learning practices across CIVIS communities.

Economic dimension

Although the primary focus of the project was social innovation and civic engagement rather than financial return, the Open Lab generated significant added value by establishing partnerships and creating foundations for future funding opportunities.

The project strengthened collaboration among CIVIS universities and community organizations, leading to the development of new project ideas, future CIVIS proposals, and additional funding applications. The resources, methodologies, and community networks developed through the project have created sustainable infrastructures for future initiatives addressing ageing, inclusion, civic participation, and intergenerational learning.

The project also enhanced participants' professional and civic capacities, increasing opportunities for future community engagement, educational innovation, and collaborative research.

Added value for the beneficiaries

The project generated substantial benefits for participants by enhancing social connectedness, wellbeing, civic participation, and intergenerational understanding. Participants reported increased confidence in interacting with people from different generations, greater awareness of age-related stereotypes, and stronger feelings of belonging within their communities.

Students gained valuable experience in community engagement, facilitation, and challenge-based learning. Older adults increased their visibility and participation in community life, while younger participants developed empathy, communication skills, and civic awareness.

The project demonstrated that intergenerational learning can contribute to healthier, more inclusive, and more democratic communities by transforming everyday interactions into opportunities for collaboration, creativity, and mutual support.

Relevance to the context

The project directly addressed contemporary social challenges including age segregation, loneliness, social isolation, ageism, weakening community ties, and limited opportunities for meaningful intergenerational contact.

At the local level, activities responded to identified community needs by creating inclusive spaces where generations could learn and collaborate together. At the institutional level, the project strengthened universities' civic missions by connecting academic knowledge with community engagement and participatory action.

At the international level, the project contributed to CIVIS priorities related to civic engagement, challenge-based learning, co-creation with stakeholders, social inclusion, and community impact. The collaboration between universities and community organizations demonstrated how higher education institutions can serve as active partners in addressing societal challenges and promoting social innovation.

Explain how the project has fulfilled the CIVIS2 goals, especially the Stream1 objectives (as per your original project application):

The project successfully fulfilled the CIVIS2 and Stream 1 objectives by:

- Strengthening interaction between universities and local communities.
- Promoting challenge-based and community-engaged learning.
- Supporting co-creation with stakeholders and citizens.
- Enhancing civic participation and social inclusion.
- Creating sustainable partnerships across sectors.
- Developing transferable methodologies and resources for community engagement.
- Encouraging transnational collaboration and exchange of good practices among CIVIS universities.
- Contributing to the development of innovative approaches for addressing societal challenges through intergenerational learning.

Through its participatory, community-centered, and interdisciplinary approach, the Open Lab demonstrated the capacity of CIVIS universities to act as catalysts for social transformation and civic innovation.

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Member universities :

amU
Aix
Marseille
Université

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens

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of Glasgow

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DEU ARMO
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