DCU: Age-Friendly University

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Dublin City University (DCU)

- DCU – brief overview
- AFU
  - Milestones
  - Principles
  - Why we did it
  - Silver Economy - role
  - Structure
  - AFU in action
- AFU Global Network
Dublin City University (DCU)

• Young university - Top 50 in the World’s ranking of Young Universities

• Dynamic, research intensive, globally engaged

• University of Enterprise & Technology

• Pioneered opportunities through its Access Programme and Intra Placement

• Academic credit for extra curricular activities
2010 Working Group established with stakeholders

2011 Developed Ten Principles of an Age-Friendly University

2012 Launched the Age Friendly University Initiative 2012

2014 AFU Coordinator appointed

2015 Inaugural Global Conference “Engaging Ageing”

2018 2nd Global Conference “Engaging Ageing”

April 2019 49 universities establishing Global Advisory Board

“New Frontiers of Ageing – Research, Policy & Practice”

- WHO Age Friendly Cities
- National Positive Ageing Strategy
- National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2019

“Universities as engines of active and healthy ageing”
Age-Friendly Principles

1. Participation

2. Promote personal and career development

3. Recognise Needs

4. Intergenerational learning

5. Widen Access
Age-Friendly Principles

6. Informed Research Agenda

7. Understanding of longevity dividend

8. Enhance access

9. Engage actively

10. Regular dialogue
WHY - Age-Friendly University?

• Demographic

• Economic

• Technological

• Social

• Political
The Role of The University Sector
Silver Economy

Contribute to the implementation of regional policies for SMEs competitiveness by building on significant opportunities arising from the Silver Economy.
(Courtesy of CORK IT - EU Inter-reg Consortium (Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Slovenia, France, Sweden, Poland)

• Research
H2020 projects

Co-designed, informed and tested by older people
Smart Ageing Activity in Ireland

• Focus on Innovation related opportunities

• Functional Food – TILDA

• Connected Health

• Assisted Living

• Adaptable Housing

• Tourism
Ageing as an opportunity rather than a crisis

Focus on Innovation related opportunities

Increasing Ireland’s opportunities to develop platforms for new business creation, rising exports and increased employment

Establishing a national framework infrastructure
reduce risks for stakeholder
Create favourable business environments
AFU 7 Pillars

- Research & Innovation
- Teaching & Learning
- Civic Engagement
- Encore Careers & Enterprise
- Lifelong Learning
- Inter-generational Learning
- Institutional change
Expert Advisory Board

- The Fold
- Age & Opportunity
- Age Action
- Irish Senior Citizen Parliament
- Men’s Sheds
- DCU 3LA
- Active Retirement Ireland
- U3a
- Third Age
- Age Friendly Ireland
- Irish Retirement Planning Council
- Alone
- Prof. Des O’Neill Geriatrician

Third Age
Age Friendly Ireland
Irish Retirement Planning Council
Alone
Expert Advisory Board

Irish
Retirement
Planning
council
Collaborations /Initiatives with Stakeholders

• Senior Citizens Parliament accommodated in DCU

• Student Engagement:
  • The Fold - NGM Students (Marketing and community based research)
  • Third Age – free computer class, listening project, Operation Conversation, Gingerbread
  • Alone – setting up a befriending group

• Staff:
  • Volunteer on Lifelong Learning Programme (2 hours per semester)
  • Established a support programme for staff caring for older parent
  • Positively engage and facilitate learning styles in an intergenerational environment

• Abháile Project — retro fitting of local houses
• Schools award — Intergenerational engagement
• DCU 3LA— regular events
Opportunities for Older People in DCU

- Academic & Customised Courses
- Fitness Programme - Active For Life MedEX Programme
- Dementia Elevator Programme
- Free Computer Classes
- DCU Ryan Academy – Entrepreneurship/Encore Careers (Ingenuity/Propeller Programme)
- Mentoring Programme
Why Join Us?

- Developing position and policy statements
- Exchange – expertise/ideas/staff/students
- Facilitative Links
- Collaborative research
- Capacity building
- Encouraging and Enhancing understanding
- Bi-Annual Congress
Thank You!

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