



VHS Meidling, Vienna
Involvement of inactive older people

SENIOR ARCHEOLOGY
(current programme)

1. **Who does your organisation consider inactive older learner?** (Max. 1000 character)

The institutional definition means non-participants. Non-Participants are those who did not attend a course, a workshop, a single lecture or any other pedagogical activity during a period of at least two years. Activity in the meaning of participation in non-formal educational settings has to be seen in a context of previous learning experiences, of learning activities during the younger life and during the occupational life. Informal learning seems to be of great importance especially for older people. We have little knowledge about informal learning.

2. **What kind of marketing tools do we you use** in order to inform and involve inactive older people? (Max. 2000 character)

The Initiative Senior Archeology is a project of the archeological department of the municipality of Vienna. The Initiative has its own journal and a group of about 200 people interested in archaeology. This network is the most important resource for marketing activities.

Furthermore the programme brochure of the *Volkshochschule Meidling* announces all single lectures and seminars of the Initiative Senior Archeology.

3. **[Agenda of the event** (Max. 3000 character)] - **not relevant**

4. **Please, describe the activity /activities** you realised! Please, use the structure below for describing each activity!

- Name of the activity: Senior Archeology
www.seniorarchaeologie.at

Senior Archeology is a co-operation project between the Volkshochschule Meidling and the City Archeology of Vienna. The co-operation is based on a treaty and the Volkshochschule offers the necessary rooms for the Senior Archeology free of charge and the Senior Archeology carries out all training lectures and training courses at the Volkshochschule which charges a small fee from the participants.

- Aim of the activity

Professionals work together with volunteers. The volunteers are taught how to restore the findings through single lectures, seminars and excursions. The volunteers, mainly older people, can attend the laboratory at the Volkshochschule every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- The method we use

Practical work with the archeological findings, lectures and seminars to train the volunteers and excursions to excavations. During a couple of semesters a volunteers branch of lectures has been developed: competent volunteers give lectures on historical and archeological aspects.

- Time needed (in minutes): depending on how many time volunteers spend in the laboratory.

- Resources needed (financial / human resources, facilities, equipments, materials):

The professional restaurators are competent in guiding and counselling the volunteers and are also facilitators.

5. **Please, describe the results** including the following indicators: (Max. 2000 character)

- Number of inactive older people involved the programme is not a low-threshold programme, we do not know how inactive the participants are.
- number of active older people involved: 200 per year
- results of the evaluation of the event The results show us that volunteer activities are very important to get older people involved in learning processes. The activities of Senior Archeology give meaning to the activities and learning processes of the involved older people. They get trained in restoring and in archaeology but it is also a sort of motoric training for them.

6. **Is this programme successful?** (Max. 1000 character)

- If yes, why? The programme is successful because it shows the necessity of co-operation and of working with volunteers. This work gives meaning to the learner in a double sense: they themselves learn new skills and acquire knowledge and they also can see that without their help many archeological activities could not be financed.

7. **Follow up activities planned** together with the inactive learners (Max. 1000 character):

The project is running on a permanent basis.