

## Intergenerational good practice examples by the Catholic Educational Institute, Diocese Graz-Seckau (Austria)

### TIK – Technik in Kürze (digital knowledge for senior citizens in a nutshell)

TIK was founded in 2008 as a pilot project and has become a high-quality intergenerational program. Digitally well-versed young people teach senior citizens how to operate smartphones and tablet computers in different places in the region of Styria. These invaluable skills give seniors the mobility, access, and freedom to connect to the world and other people. Thus, the project contributes to the target group's self-empowerment and participation in society.

Since the target group is characterized by strong heterogeneity in terms of education, performance and interest, the content is designed in a participatory manner, i.e. it is based on the specific needs of the participants and their different performance levels.

The different performance levels include trial lessons, classes for beginners and advanced learners.

TIK-trainers are qualified in a special training course by the Catholic Educational Institute where they learn the basics of senior education.

TIK classes open up intergenerational meeting spaces in which both generations learn to recognize and deal with differences (e.g. in language, perception, approach, speed). The classes create possibilities for young and older people to identify with one another and offer the chance to counteract the social alienation of the different age groups.

Accessibility is a crucial aspect of the classes, where we look out for visibility, usability and comprehensibility.

Handouts that can be used flexibly for different performance levels were developed together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, paying particular attention to comprehensibility and accessibility.

### Awards

TIK has already won several prizes and has currently been awarded the “Digital Senior:innenbildung” seal of approval (digital senior education).



### Facts about the project:

- Since 2015 the Catholic Educational Institute has organized 125 trial lessons and 284 seminars.
- The classes are offered on site, in the immediate vicinity of the target group.
- Trial lessons and classes for beginners or advanced learners are inexpensive, since the target group tends to have little financial means.
- During the pandemic, a TIK hotline was set up where senior citizens could ask questions about using tablets, smartphones and laptops. This offer is still available.
- With financial support from the Ministry of Social Affairs, 14 TIK video tutorials and documents were developed that help senior citizens to work out or repeat content independently at home.



- Learn more about the project:

### **Treffpunkt Generationen - meeting place for generations**

In the project “meeting place for generations”, we work with children, young people, young adults and seniors to develop intergenerational activities and formats that give them the opportunity to interact with each other.

Intergenerational education is based on specific didactics, in which young and old learn from each other, with and/or about each other in order to counteract generational alienation, to overcome age stereotypes and promote solidarity between the generations through mutual identification.

A participatory approach is essential for the success of intergenerational projects. In order to reach the target groups, topics and formats are adapted to local conditions. Consequently, regional differences and preferences have a strong influence on the project development.

So far the intergenerational formats have covered the following topics: art & culture; craft and design; health, nutrition & exercise; environment & sustainability; traditions, festival and celebration culture; encounter of generations.

The implementation of intergenerational offers requires qualified instructors and organizers, who use special methods and didactics to create opportunities for old and young to interact. Instructors and organizers are trained by the Catholic Educational.

### **Awards**

The project has been awarded the Good Practice Prize by the Ministry of Social Affairs twice.

### **Facts about the project:**

- Since 2017 the Catholic Educational Institute has organized 400 intergenerational events and 60 seminars.
- The events and seminars are offered on site, in the immediate vicinity of the target group.
- The courses are inexpensive, since the target groups tend to have little financial means.
- A film, guidelines, fact sheets and method boxes as well as two collections of innovative model projects have been developed on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs to support instructors and organizers of intergenerational projects in their work.
- Learn more about the project:

