

## Project partners

**BUPNET**

BUPNET  
Germany  
[www.bupnet.de](http://www.bupnet.de)



CSVnet  
Italy  
[www.csvnet.it](http://www.csvnet.it)



FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT  
DES ROTEN KREUZES  
Austria  
[www.frk.or.at](http://www.frk.or.at)



Kamut  
Finland  
[www.kansallisetmaahanmuuttajat.fi](http://www.kansallisetmaahanmuuttajat.fi)



LUNARIA  
Italy  
[www.lunaria.org](http://www.lunaria.org)



Alliance of European Voluntary  
Service Organisations  
[www.alliance-network.eu](http://www.alliance-network.eu)



Budapest Cultural Centre  
Hungary  
[www.bmknet.hu](http://www.bmknet.hu)

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Lifelong Learning Programme

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## Recognition of Inter- generational Volunteering Experiences and Results





## RIVER – Recognition of Intergenerational Volunteering Experiences and Results

Promoting active-aging senior volunteering has an invaluable effect on our societies. Given the demographic trend and the increasing number of elderly people in Europe, it is even more crucial to create opportunities for elderly to stay active.

Senior volunteering brings generations together and creates benefits for both the volunteers and the organisations involved. Volunteer settings provide new learning opportunities and contribute to ones well-being and private life balance. Senior volunteering as a way of informal learning provides organisations with volunteers who have acquired extensive knowledge and experience over a lifetime period.

Senior volunteering plays a key role in our society, and demands exposure and recognition! Yet reliable and convincing methodologies for the assessment and validation of the impact and outcomes of senior volunteering are missing.

By developing a tailor-made competence assessment system the project RIVER aims at making learning outcomes of senior volunteering visible and thus add to senior volunteers' motivation and sense of achievement.

## Target groups

The main target groups of the RIVER project are:

- Voluntary organisations which organise senior volunteering activities
- Adult education organisations which already work or may work in the future with senior learners
- Umbrella organisations of the two mentioned types of institutions which can act as multipliers
- Decision-makers in local, national and European authorities which (might) provide funding for senior volunteering

The final beneficiaries of the RIVER project activities are senior volunteers.

## Aims of the RIVER project

RIVER aims at

- making the learning benefits of senior volunteering activities visible;
- developing and testing a planning and validation system for senior volunteering;
- providing and improving learning opportunities for the increasing number of senior citizens in Europe;
- motivating older people to engage in senior volunteering as a learning experience;
- promoting intergenerational learning.

RIVER will apply the LEVEL5 approach for assessing and validating competencies acquired in informal learning settings to the specific requirements of the volunteering sector. Based on this approach a comprehensive methodology will be developed to support both volunteers and volunteering facilitators for:

- defining personal aims of senior volunteering activities;
- planning senior volunteering activities accordingly;
- evaluating their impact on senior volunteers and on the beneficiaries of volunteering activities.

## RIVER project activities

The main activities of the RIVER project between January 2012 and December 2013 are:

Investigating key results of previous EU projects on senior volunteering

Organising an internal workshop on methodology

Developing the RIVER methodology for senior volunteering based on LEVEL5

Organising a two-day workshop on the RIVER methodology for volunteering facilitators

Piloting the RIVER methodology in the partner countries

Developing the final design of the RIVER methodology based on the results of piloting

Producing a promotional brochure on informal learning in intergenerational volunteering activities

Presenting the RIVER project at European events

[www.river-project.eu](http://www.river-project.eu)