

Best Singular Initiatives in Switzerland

Name of the practice: “Computers are easier in Spanish”

Localization

Genève, Canton de Genève, Switzerland

Participants

The group was made up of five women aged 52 to 66. All of them only spoke Spanish.

Description of the practice

The main aim of the initiative was to help the elderly people who do not speak the local language (French) and who were willing to learn how to use the new technologies, so that they can become more autonomous and capable to use the new technologies without any help.

The main activities organized consisted of:

- In order to overcome the fear of new technologies, we have largely talked about the risks of damaging the computers as well as about the importance of new technologies for getting closer to people who are far away from us.
- Playing online: the jigsaws are perfect for developing the fine motor function and to improve the connections between the brain and the hand.
- Become aware of the importance of the Internet connection and its advantages: once the participants have realized how important the Internet connection is, they also become aware of its advantages.
- Manage e-mail accounts (open and close): the participants have discovered a new way of communication by using the e-mail.
- Find information on the Internet: Simply by surfing the Web for a while, the participants have discovered an entire world that before remained hidden to them.
- Connect to a public network: a great discovery for all the participants.

By means of the activities, the participants have managed to:

- Create an e-mail account;
- Compose short e-mail messages and send them;
- Share information via e-mail (copy and paste);
- Write and edit texts in Word;
- Attach documents and photos, enclose website links to an e-mail;
- Play online and compete against each other;
- Recover an e-mail password;
- Log in to an e-banking account;
- Work on a website in order to find a job;

- Read newspapers online;
- Open several windows at the same time;
- Know the parts of the computer;
- Connect to a public Wi-Fi.

Period of implementation

The initiative was implemented during March-August 2015.

Impact

The project has had a really positive impact. All the participants have taken an active part in the project and keep on doing so. The fact of having weekly appointments on Mondays encourages them to get out of their houses. It also helps them meet new people.

Giving classes in Spanish is a real success since the participants do not speak French and, even though they can afford computer lessons, they would not take such a considerable advantage of them due to the language barrier.

Why is this initiative singular?

The project is innovative because it brings the elderly people who do not speak the local language closer to the new technologies and helps them to learn about these technologies in their native language.

Links

- www.facebook.com/PROJETACTIONG2015
- [ACTing Youtube Channel](#)

Contact

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Best Singular Initiatives in Switzerland

Name of the practice: “Together we can do it... it’s never too late!”

Localization

Genève, Switzerland

Participants

The group was made up of six people (4 women and 2 men). Some already had some basic knowledge, others didn’t.

Description of the practice

The main aims of the initiative were to transmit basic information about the new technology skills and to motivate participants to use the computer in order to cultivate personal interests and to solve practical issues.

The main activities organized consisted of:

- Interactive courses
- Educational activities
- A colour keyboard map for typewriting
- Karaoke
- Online searches centered on their interests

During the initiative we have used educational learning techniques adapted to beginners, for example: a colour keyboard map for typewriting, karaoke, online searches centered on their interests.

By means of the initiative, the participants have become more confident when using a computer; they acquired basic skills and learned how to manage photos, write and edit text, manage an email account and communicate through it, do online searches, find videos on Youtube, understand what a blog is about. The products developed within the initiative were: videos, documents in various formats, photos saved on computer from mobile phone and camera, etc.

Period of implementation

The initiative was implemented during May-September 2015.

Impact

The initiative represents a very positive change for society, the intelligent use of the Internet and social networks can reduce the feeling of loneliness which unfortunately has an unpleasant effect on retired people. A good remedy for depression, it supports the potential resumption of activities at a social level.

Why is this initiative singular?

The initiative brings the elderly closer to the information and communication

technology, offers them a new perspective of using ICT according to their needs, interests and at their own pace.

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