

# **EFOS Regular Meeting and Learning Seminar**

## **EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF OLDER STUDENTS**



**09 April – 12 April 2025, Zagreb, Croatia**

**Hosting Organisation:**

**Public Open University Zagreb**

**Learning in Later Life is a prerequisite for  
different forms of social participation.**



## COMPETENCE CENTRES FOR GERIATRIC MEDICINE AND CARE

### Patient care and complex geriatric treatment

#### Albert Schweitzer Clinic

- Acute Geriatrics /Remobilization
- Medical Geriatrics
- Memory clinic
- Apallic Care Unit
- GEKO & Telecare

#### Albert Schweitzer Hospice/Day Hospice

- Nursing Homes
- Assisted living arrangements
- Day treatment and care

#### Research and teaching – in “Albert-Schweitzer Institute!”



## ***House Esther***

***More Independent***

***healthy years of life***

- New ways of caring for older people: care and advice services for older people under one roof

<https://ggz.graz.at/haus-esther/>

Dr. Rosemarie Kurz,  
Senior Scientist,  
Gerontologist

**Learning in later life  
for Healthy Aging!**



**Team of the Albert Schweitzer Institut:** Dr. Judith Goldgruber,  
Dr. Wolfgang Kratky; Dr. Rosemarie Kurz, Dr. Sandra Dohr, Dr. Ursula Berger



Dr. Rosemarie Kurz, Senior Scientist, Gerontologist

## *Together we create better living environments for older people*

**Mission** | With our *co-creative research* and development, we are a *link between science and society*. **Wisdom may be learned by training!**

**Vision** | We design living environments in which **older people can use their resources and develop their potential**. We are looking for new ways to enable people to grow old where they want to grow old.



## *Chances and opportunities for Sociopolitical participation in post professional life*

### *User Centered Design and Co-creation!*

- Participation of the target group
- **ESTHER LAB - learn ageing by using Technic sensibly**
- Scientific articles
- **Digitalization**
- ASIGG
- ESTHER with
- **The Thesis** of Mag.a Drin Rosemarie Kurz deals with the participation of the elderly in societal processes with special focus on senior citizens' organizations in the context of political parties. University Graz 1999

*Chances and  
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In a society in which **every fifth person is already older than 60 years**, senior citizens are not a marginal group worthy of protection, but **an independent group** of people who have to take responsibility for protecting their own interests.

**Learn to understand your Human Rights!**

**Turnout of elections:** Older people can influence political decisions in their favor because of their large number

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Public voices are calling for **participatory behavior** on the part of the elderly themselves.

**Learning in Later Life is a prerequisite** for different forms of social participation.

**Self-organized and self-determined** projects are aiming to force self-help institutions on local level.



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- **Participation means** that elderly are using free spaces of society for awareness in public and political issues and so **older people could influence decision-making authorities.**
- **Self-determination:** Older people work autonomously aiming to gain competence for forming decision-making bodies for issues of their own interests.

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- **Participation models are community-oriented** reflecting the living environment of those affected.
- **Productivity projects:** These include the productive use of ageing for the general interest.
- **They combine elements of learning, self-help, and volunteering.**

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## A lifeworld-related participation of older people arises through:

- ... **Learning in later life in different settings,**
- ... **Initiatives and activism** of the elderly themselves,
- ... **Transparent information** for older people in matters that affect them,
- ... **Awareness and public relations** want to make the potential of older people visible

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- ... **Changing the negative image of old age** by including older people in the process,
- ... **Revitalizing and incorporating** the life experience of older people in society,
- ... **Promotion of intergenerational understanding** - younger people benefit from the experience of older people, and **older people learn to deal with new realities,**

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- ... **Taking in account the heterogeneity of older people** by promoting projects and initiatives for specific target groups and subject areas.
- ... **Supporting organizations and individual networks** to inform the public about the importance of socio-cultural issues in the post-professional phase of life.
- ... **Learning how to be heard by the public!**



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- ... **Socio-political participation** is a right and duty for all age groups **by learning how to do it!**
- ... **Promoting a cross-generational view** of socio-political activities, habits, needs and interests in all phases of life.
- ... **Putting Senior Interests on European Level** by taking the possibilities seriously of
- **taking part in the upcoming elections!**

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*"**A society for all** is one that adapts its structures and functions as well as its strategies and plans to the needs and abilities of everyone so that **everyone's potential is available for the benefit of everyone.**"* UN Sidorenko 1995

*Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko ,was Chief of UN Programme on Ageing, United Nations, 1988 – 2009.*

*He found ways to constitute the association „European Federation of Older Students at Universities“ in Bruxeles 1990. Rosemarie Kurz was there!*

## *Elephants as a symbol for solidarity among generations*

Elephants are said to attain old age and wisdom. They live in herds with the young ones; when water is scarce the old ones remember more water spots than the young; when water is found the young animals may enjoy the water first. The pace of trotting is so arranged that the very young and aged animals can also keep up with the rest. And when life comes to its end the elephant herd comforts the old dying animal with their trunks.

