

UPSKILLING DIGITAL SAVVY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - UDSACE

Project code: 2019-1-IT02-KA104-061729



Training Course held in Madeira, Portugal, from July 24 to July 31, 2021 hosted by Mobility Friends organization.

Everything started with a smooth flight and the journey made to reach the accommodation. The desire and enthusiasm were great to learn more, to meet new people, to learn about other cultures and to see wonderful places. The first day of the training started with ice breaker activities and then team-building activities in order to create a good atmosphere. After creating a wonderful atmosphere among the participants, the facilitator entered the theoretical part of the topic. In the first part, there was an introduction to community challenges inspiring and requiring community engagement at the level of the citizens.

Some of these community-engagement challenges were identified as: getting and staying involved in the community; overcoming differences among academics and in the community; and collaboration with nontraditional communities. . Naturally, from the local point of view, there are differences since the situation is different in different places, which creates a different reality and needs. It then continued with a presentation and analysis by MVNGO on the context of functioning against the backdrop of general community challenges connected to participatory community-building. The basis of this analysis was North Sardinia and the historic center of Sassari. In this part, the reality is presented, which proves to us that the problems and the approach to them should be adapted based on the local needs of the country.

ABOUT THE TOPIC

The last century has been characterized by many different and high technological advances in many spheres of life. Globalization has made countries as connected as possible and to find the most innovative ways that have made cooperation between them possible. Journalism is one of the fields that has undergone great changes and advanced from a classical way to a modern and global one. A newspaper cannot be called only a local newspaper that operates in a certain area since the news offered can have influence, distribution, and global access. This form of development and advancement has created various revolutionary concepts in journalism, and one of them is citizen journalism. Citizen journalism is one of the newest trends in journalism today, but as a concept it was used decades ago.

The problems of community engagement are different, and they also differ from the strata of which we refer to the citizens. Since globalization has made countries connected to each other and problems from one country are imported to other countries, the solutions should be taken from the best practices that have been done. The solution to the problem is achieved when we know concretely about the problem and focus on the factors that caused it. Therefore, during the TC, an activity was developed where we presented the needs that exist in our communities, focusing on the ferried group of low-skilled adults and the problems they have in engaging in the community. In continuation of the activities, a general introduction was made to the concept of citizen



The barriers that low-skilled adults encounter every day in community engagement can be shown very easily through a participatory video, which would raise awareness of these barriers and make it possible to reach a solution. Also, grassroots publications on different phenomena are a very effective practice in addressing many problems and verifying them. They lead to a more formal and reliable path and a collective approach. The best part about this training course was that after we turned the theory into practice by learning about the practices of citizen journalism, we had the opportunity to practice them within the community of Madeira.

The next part focused on the development of schemes of community building practices grounded in citizens' journalism tailored to the specific needs and profiles of low-skilled adults. The practices derived from citizen journalism are practices that can be developed in other spheres and can show high efficiency. One of them was the development of schemes for which it will be possible to build the community for the target we have as a focus. These schemes were modified based on the practices of citizen journalism.

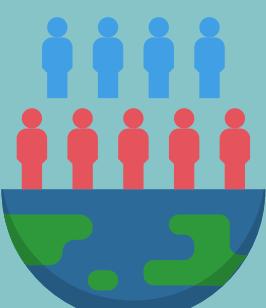
journalism, focusing on the perspective of adults. After a general introduction, getting to know the concept and getting information about citizen journalists, it was time to get acquainted with more specific practices of citizen journalism, such as community interviews, participatory videos, and grassroots publications. These good practices are very useful and have shown results in the countries where they have been tested. Community interviews have made it easier to access and share opinions about the problems that concern citizens and are a very easy and efficient tool to put into practice. Participatory videos are a very effective tool and practice based on the collective commitment of the community.



Citizen journalism is a concept in the media that refers to journalism and the actions of journalists by ordinary people. So, it is the citizens who report the news and not only the professional journalists. Nowadays, a large part of the news is reported by the citizens, and it is not only the big media that reports the news. The technological development of the last century has made this access of citizens to journalistic life possible through blogs, social networking sites, different websites, etc. Citizen journalism has enabled people to raise their voices for the problems they think need to be addressed and for the problems they face every day.

Citizen journalists are not professional journalists and they do not work in newspapers or deal professionally with this field, they are citizens who are audience, listeners, readers. Duffy, Thorson, and Jahng (2010) have defined "citizen journalist" as "an individual who is not a trained professional but who nevertheless may report on his or her neighborhood or community."

Citizen journalism is a successful concept and methodology that can be used as an example and find application in many other areas of life. And one of the main goals of being a participant in the training course is to research and develop knowledge that will find application in building the community where we live.



One of the most important outputs of this training was the improvement of our capacities as participants in the distribution of this knowledge and the practices that we have learned among low-skilled adults in our country. And one of the first steps we learned was how to provide basic knowledge and increase soft skills for this target. This training marathon continued with the promotion and strengthening of the use of the tools and methodology of citizen journalism by low-skilled adults and the role of training as a supporter of citizen journalism in the process of building community engagement among low-skilled adults. This activity was focused on the local level of the communities. Then, original tools were developed which will reward the strengthening of the process of engagement in the community for the free group of low-skilled adults, making it fit with the local needs and its characteristics and be practicable in reality.



2 Job Shadowing hosted by Caribbean Education and Culture Foundation, Netherlands.

The first Job Shadowing was held from 18 to 29 December 2021 while the second one was held from 9 to 20 June 2022. Both the Job Shadowing have been hosted by Caribbean Education and Culture Foundation and involved the same leading staff member from MVNGO. The Job Shadowing focused on arranging regular mechanisms of good practice exchange and partnership in joint projects on the development of digital skills and digital participation skills in disadvantaged (low-skilled) adults.

The two Job Shadowing have translated into the development of a regular exchange of best practices between MVNGO and Caribbean Education and Culture Foundation, an organization's expert participation in the Adult field. Networking and acquisition of new methods have assisted MVNGO in constantly updating its offer in the field based on the latest trends and developments in this particular niche of adult education.

