

Polish in action – active ageing through language learning and culture

Gdańsk – Sopot – Gdynia: 06.05.2013 – 13.05.2013

www.polishinaction.pl

20 participants

14 countries

age: 52 – 77

The workshop offer was directed only at learners 50+ who wished to learn basic Polish and were interested in getting to know Polish culture, history, art, the Pomeranian region etc. as well as exchanging opinions and information about selected areas of culture and art from their own countries. The participants acquired also new learning skills and gained insights into the subject of learning techniques. Part of the activities – sightseeing, discussions, exchange of opinions, ideas and information about their own culture and art - were carried out in English.

Motivation of candidates was the decisive factor in the selection process. Professional development was excluded.

The program of workshops was divided into daily modules holding similar elements:

1. Learning basic Polish in classes by means of communicative method; students gained the skills of communicating in Polish in typical situations (functional language) connected with their stay in Poland. During all types of activities the participants acquired also modern techniques of learning . The programme of teaching Polish combined modern and innovative techniques with the needs of learners 50+ (the pace of the course, didactic materials, subjects connected with hobbies and interests of that age group)

2.The next module was a panel (presentations and discussions), matched thematically with the type of tasks realized in the classroom.

E.g. cuisine, architecture and art, folk art and crafts, nature, music and dance, history.

Before coming to Poland, participants were asked to prepare a short presentation on one of the chosen subjects from their native country and culture. After participants' presentations there was a presentation on this subject given by the Polish side (e.g. by volunteers, our 50+ learners) and a discussion in English followed.

3.Sightseeing and language projects in the most interesting and attractive parts of Tricity (the Old Town of Gdańsk, Oliwa, Sopot, Gdynia, concert in philharmonic).

Results were:

- gaining basic language skills to get by as a tourist/customer,
- gaining new skills of learning
- gaining knowledge on Poland, Polish culture, art, history and lifestyle,
- gaining and exchange of knowledge on culture and art of the native countries of participants,
- encouraging the continuation of learning Polish and other languages as well as acquiring new skills,
- encouraging both the participants and their fellow countrymen to visit Poland,
- promotion of multilingualism and cultural diversity