

## Hands-on workshop: creative crafts with older people

### Presenters

Sirpa Kokko, Mari Salovaara (Craft Teacher Education, University of Helsinki; Finland)  
Janine Stedman, Jon Lincoln Gordon (Superact, UK)

Number of participants: 20

Space and equipment: Computer & internet connection, beamer, a selection of stationery, glue, pens, paints, a flip chart.

Presenters will bring materials for craft activity

The goal of this workshop is to provide the participants new ideas about using creative crafts in working with older people in care centres. The workshop will present some of the craft projects conducted in care centres for older people during the Handmade Wellbeing project, highlighting the best practices. Workshop participants will take part in a hands-on fabric printing activity that has been run successfully by our learner artists with older people in care settings during the project. Participants will collaboratively print a fabric in the workshop using multi printing media. The fabric will be exhibited during the conference in the conference venue and afterwards donated to a local care home.

The purpose of the Handmade Wellbeing project is to enhance and expand professional competences of arts & crafts professionals to design and carry out craft activities in elderly care. Arts & crafts offer creative and empowering activities that should be available for all and provided e.g. in care centres. This sector could offer new kinds of employment opportunities to craft culture experts and artists, and already arts and crafts professionals are employed increasingly in challenging community engagement areas to work in cooperation with other experts in specialist fields, especially wellbeing and health-related services. However, these are areas outside their traditional education and core skills. Abilities to work with different target groups in care sector, such as older people, in cooperation with experts of other fields are needed.

The Erasmus+ project is funded by EU and carried out by four European partners from Finland (University of Helsinki, coordinator), Great Britain (Superact, NGO), Austria (KUNSTLABOR Graz / uniT, art association under the University in Graz) and Estonia (Viljandi Culture Academy / University of Tartu). During the project, each partner institution recruits and educates craft experts and artists to prepare and deliver arts & crafts workshops in elderly care. The workshops are conducted in local care centres in each partner country. Each partner institution arranges also short-term learning activities which the other partners participate.

One of the main ideas of this project is to study and share the best practices for both delivering crafts activities in care centres, and also, for artist learning. As an outcome, an education model to coach arts and crafts professionals and educators to work with elderly in care is developed in cooperation with all partners.