At the end of the session on the 3rd age, the participants created ‘Tips’ as follows:

- Tips for teachers
- Tips for Directors of Studies/Academic Directors
- Tips for owners/Directors/principals

These are all tips for working with older/more mature/second spring/young at heart learners – there was a unanimous agreement that 3rd age was not the best title to use!

**Tips for teachers**

- Questionnaire about learners’ interests
- Brainstorming to create a syllabus and for extra curricula activities
- Create a welcoming atmosphere (possibly include food and drinks)
- Make sure that the language used in the classroom is understood by everyone – take nothing for granted
- Prepare relevant materials linked to interests and consider health conditions, e.g. hearing, sight
- Take time to get to know the students/show an interest in their life experiences
- Exploit their background knowledge
- Identify transferable skills
- Allow for ‘thinking time’

**Tips for Directors of studies/Academic Directors**

- CPD – teacher development session with 3rd age focus to raise awareness
- Select teacher with care – patience, approachability, sensitivity
- Syllabus and lessons need flexibility – be prepared to adjust the syllabus possibly based on needs analysis
- Consider closed classes/mixed classes – experiment
- Work with marketing and timetable course to tie in with special dates, e.g. festivals, cultural events, culinary seasons
- Make owners and marketing aware of the issues and the things to consider

**Tips for owners**

1. Design course:
   a. Trained teachers
   b. Resources needed
   c. Time
   d. Up to date topics/skills based
   e. Objectives
   f. Premises
   g. Target – Who, When and Where?

2. Cost? Funding?
   a. Local
   b. EU
   c. Government subsidy – prepare business plan/project
3. Marketing – traditional
   a. Leaflets – door to door
   b. Newspapers
   c. Decide on the target age, e.g. 50+/60/65?
   d. Consider how to communicate the message – do we need as trained expert to help?,
      small classes?
   e. Consider a free trial/open lesson with no commitment
   f. Extras – synchronise with community groups

As you can see there was a great deal of discussion around this topic and I’m sure that readers will think of many more things which could be added to this list.

The last PowerPoint slide has a list of references one of which is


This is an interesting and worthwhile document to read. Other references are:

University of Surrey Report
‘Understanding the support needs of mature students’
Carey Newson Dr Almuth McDowall Professor Mark NK Saunders
http://www.surrey.ac.uk


https://eric.ed.gov/

https://www.coursehero.com

https://www.teaching English.org.uk