

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 a 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

<http://www.bia-net.org/en/eubia.html>

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>

Walters, M. (2000). The mature students' three Rs. *British Journal of Guidance & Counselling*, Vol 28(2).

<https://eric.ed.gov/>

<https://www.coursehero.com>

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

