



Practice that Works

The GATE partnership wished to explore and share experiences of “good practice”, a term that often translates as something that has been tried with beneficial effects and indeed indicates that it could work for others too.

Good practice

“Good practice should reach beyond theory to real world application in some context where its impact can be observed or measured in some way”.

(Senior project, DELIVERABLE D4.1 report on Best Practices and Roadmap towards the Roadmap Project: co-funded by the European Commission FP7)

As a result of our discussions we have developed the term “good practice or practice that works” – that is practice we have used in our own countries that has worked well. We are not suggesting that this cannot be improved upon but rather it can provide a good starting point for those who wish to develop active-ageing activities with older people and that adjustments may be needed to recreate such an activity or project in your own locale. We posed several questions to try and develop the GATE criteria for good practice.

- How do we define practice that works?
- What are the key characteristics?
- What makes a good learning environment for older people engaged in active ageing activities?
- What stops older people from engaging and learning?
- What are the barriers to participation in active ageing for older people and how can they be overcome?
- How do we engage the most vulnerable groups?



Our criteria of practice that works

From our discussions, the GATE partners agreed on the following criteria:

- older adults have ownership of the project or have involved older people in its creation
- the project has clear objectives and outcomes that can be met by the group in a format that is achievable
- the project respects and meets the needs of the group and individual learners
- the project has considered the needs of older adults e.g. access, convenience, cost, appropriate time & location/venue etc
- there is evidence that the project can be transferred and adapted to meet specific needs (individual, local, regional, national)
- there is evidence that the outcomes of the project can be further developed or sustained in the longer term.

