

SPAIN

CASE STUDY NO. 8

PAPER A

**ASOCIACIÓN DE ALUMNOS Y EXALUMNOS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD PERMANENTE DE ALICANTE
ALICANTE
SPAIN**



OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

- Promoting education and cognitive development of older adult women in the Valencian Autonomous Region.
- Improving social skills and encouraging their interpersonal relationships.
- Reducing exclusion and integrating these older adult women socially and culturally.
- Promoting intergenerational collaboration.
- Developing formative strategies or leisure and cultural activities that are stimulating, customized or ready-made for specific groups.

LEARNER PROFILE

Older adult women living in the Valencian Region (belonging to one or more of the following groups):

- House keepers and family carers, mainly the so-called “slave grandmothers.”
- People without education or with basic studies who are not ready to develop other activities outside the home environment and workplace.
- Foreign residents who do not speak Spanish and suffer more isolation.

CONTEXT: SOCIAL / ECONOMIC / EMOTIONAL

It is about a large group of older adult women who do not feel able to become involved in cultural and educational activities, because of self-esteem problems and insecurity in their skills or ignorance of these training possibilities and the benefits that can derive from them. Many of them do not own enough financial resources, have little training and are not sufficiently connected with social groups.

Frequently, these women have some relatives to look after all day long, mainly their grandchildren, parents and dependants, which favours their isolation as they only have a loose contact with other members of their social environment.

In the first case, we are talking about the so-called ‘slave grandmothers’ who, due to the current economic situation together with other social and cultural circumstances, have been forced to assume this role.

In addition to the problem mentioned above, a large number of them live the final part of their lives in forced solitude, once they stop acting as caregivers; they isolate themselves and do not receive the necessary support, taking refuge in TV (programmes with poor cultural contents) as the only means of communication-information.

ENVIRONMENT: PLACE / TIME

The schedule will have to adapt to the recipients and proponents of the initiative.

Possible places of realization would be: social centres, neighbourhood associations and public institutions of continuing education of adults. The schedule will have to adapt to the recipients and the proponents of the initiative.

OBSTACLES: DIFFICULTIES MET

Although there is a large supply of educational and cultural activities, great difficulties exist to become involved and this is due to several issues, namely: self-esteem problems and insecurity of women who distrust their own learning and socializing skills because they are not aware of these activities and the benefits which can derive from them; because information is not delivered through conventional channels (websites, press, communiqúés, social centers) given their limited access to reading or ICTs and other cultural and formative media as well as the limited amount of time available outside the family/work environment as carers.

The main aims to achieve are:

- To approach them show them the opportunities and resources available
- To help them overcome their fears and uncertainties
- To facilitate learning processes and culture access in a simple, funny and attractive way.

ILLUSTRATION

Population of 65 and more years according to achieved level, 2007

Units: Thousands of people and vertical percentages	From 65 to 69 years	70 and above	65 and above
Women	982.2	3203.0	4185.2
Illiterate	6.2	11.3	10.1
Primary education	69.6	77.2	75.4
Incomplete primary education	25.9	35.0	32.9
Complete primary education*	43.8	42.2	42.6
The first stage of secondary education	9.6	4.2	5.4
The second stage of secondary education**	7.5	3.7	4.6
Higher education	7.0	3.6	4.4

* It includes Education and job placement that does not require the first stage of secondary education
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Source: INE: INEBASE. Encuesta de Población Activa, 2007

Frequency of the grandchildren care by population older than 65.

Country		Women			
		Total	From 65 to 74 Years	From 75 to 84 years	85 and above
Belgium	Daily	4.8	6.7	2.3	0.0
	Weekly	10.6	16.6	2.6	0.0
	Less frequent	12.3	15.8	8.3	0.0
	Never	47.5	37.9	59.5	69.6
Spain	Daily	9.3	15.0	3.2	2.0
	Weekly	5.5	7.7	4.1	0.0
	Less frequent	7.4	10.5	4.4	2.0
	Never	40.5	32.8	46.7	57.0
Italy	Daily	10.7	14.4	5.2	0.0
	Weekly	5.1	7.1	1.9	0.0
	Less frequent	5.6	7.3	3.3	0.0
	Never	39.9	34.5	50.7	44.4
Denmark	Daily	0.5	1.0	0.0	0.0
	Weekly	6.6	12.1	1.9	0.0
	Less frequent	18.9	34.2	5.7	0.0
	Never	49.1	30.7	65.6	70.6

Source: SHARE Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, 2004