

# THINK TANK

CREATING CAPTIVATING TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR VULNERABLE LEARNERS



# PORTUGAL

# CASE STUDY Nº 7

## AGRUPAMENTO DE ESCOLAS D. SANCHO I VILA NOVA DE FAMALICÃO PORTUGAL



PAPER A

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING COURSE**

Lifelong

Learning

Programme

- To give strategies to teachers who work with students of very distinct age groups, in order to make it possible for them to allow every student to feel welcome and connected to the activities.
- To make it easier for students of different age groups to engage in pair or group work without feeling excluded or prejudiced and thus allowing them to learn together.
- To prevent the formation of age clusters within the classroom.

# LEARNER PROFILE

- Students who have left school without finishing their education but need the certificate of secondary education to get a job, to keep their jobs or to climb the career ladder. They come in two distinct combinations:
  - Students aged between 18 to 25 years old, who have left day school not long ago and who still see school as having the same rules and feel as when they were trying to complete their compulsory education.
  - Students older than 25, sometimes much older, who left school a long time ago and find it difficult to integrate in a place where, now as adults, they have to follow rules and make a serious effort to attain the necessary working rhythm of classes where they find many of the students who could be their children.

## **CONTEXT: SOCIAL / ECONOMIC / EMOTIONAL**

Ideally, night school was designed to give adults the opportunity of finally completing the school levels they haven't enrolled in before because they were not compulsory when they were young students. Many of these students come from poor, uneducated backgrounds, they lack ambitions, some are unemployed (many with no prospects of getting a job any time soon). Most of the older students feel motivated, though they sometimes show lots of difficulties in getting ahead.

However, many young students, who should have finished compulsory education, didn't accomplish it and are now given a second chance of taking it to term, at night school. Many of those younger students feel unmotivated, don't like school much and feel they are forced to study, in order to get a proper job in the future.

## ENVIRONMENT: PLACE / TIME

At Agrupamento de Escolas D. Sancho I, in V. N. de Famalicão, at night school / evening classes, during the school year.

## **OBSTACLES: DIFFICULTIES MET**

Age-mixed classes bring some serious challenges. What motivates one generation doesn't necessarily motivate the other. What may seem childish for the most mature ones is what makes the youngest ones tick.

Pair or group work is a complex task because of age differences, which bring with it cultural, behavioural and educational barriers. How do we break the ice that keeps colleagues apart? What kind of activities will bring them together and may work for younger as well as older ones?

# ILLUSTRATION



PORTUGAL REAL		10xxx640	150642 - Agrupamento de Escolas D. Sancho I 401377 - Escola EB3/Secundária D. Sancho I Relação de Alunos	Ano: 3 Turma: TL 1 Curso de Educ. e Form. de Adultos - Dupla Certificação	
			Ano Letivo 2014 / 2015	1	
Nº Processo	Nº Turma	1	Nome	Idade	
23729	1	Carla Elisabete Ribeiro Soto Maior e Barbosa		36	
32756	2	Carlos André Rodrigues dos Santos			
32757	3	Cáti	Cátia Patrícia Machado da Silva		
32755	4	Maria de Fátima Monteiro de Sousa			
32760	5	Mart	Marta Raquel Moreira da Silva		
23401	6	Rui Daniel da Silva			
32763	7	Tiag	Tiago Augusto da Silva Faria		
32764	8	Herr	Hernáni de Araújo Monteiro		
32749	9	Ricardo José Veloso da Cunha e Costa		29	
25530	10	João António de Freitas Carvalho		64	
26854	11	Jorg	Jorge Filipe Rels da Costa		
32767	12	Vera Mónica Rodrigues Azevedo		19	
32768	13	3 Luís Renato Alves da Silva		21	