

Opening remarks

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The context

This conference marks the first steps of the project ***BALL - Be Active through Lifelong Learning***.

European project

The project enjoys financial support from the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme.

The grant is 200.000 EUR for a period of two years.

The partners are from Iceland, Poland and Spain.

The project idea comes from U3A - Reykjavík.

The project coordinator is Evris.

BALL partners

Evrís

U3A – Reykjavík

UPUA, Universidad Permanente de la Universidad de Alicante

LUTW, Lubelski Uniwersytet Trzeciego Wieku

Icelandic sponsors

Association of Academics (BHM)

National Power Company of Iceland

City of Reykjavík

Reykjavík's municipal employees' association

University of Iceland – Division of Human Resources

The reason

Consequently, it is of utmost importance for future Europe to guarantee the ***highest quality of life for this large group of citizens and to ensure that their valuable resources of experience and knowledge are made accessible*** to the younger generations and to society at large. It is against this background that the project presented here is defined, ***aiming at facilitating the entry into retirement through early and successful planning.***

The Innovation

The innovative aspect of the project lies in the aim ***to develop and test recommendations*** and ways to engage retirees in a culturally and intellectually stimulating and productive learning environment, thus adding value to life in the „third age“, ***with a emphasis on early planning well ahead of retirement age***, and at the same time ***enabling society to benefit from the vast pool of competences and experiences*** of this rapidly growing part of the population.