



## Platforms for Ageing Community Engagement–Exchange and Enterprise

### Update on Activities:

Welcome to the sixth issue of our newsletter. All regions involved in our project have been affected by COVID19 since our last issue. Restrictions have differed across the regions but work on the project has continued and we have enjoyed virtual meetings and activities. However the planned Archive launch and closure events in April had to be postponed. We are rescheduling these for the autumn.

The project has been granted an extension and will now finish in March 2021.

### Where are we now?

The focus is on ensuring all outputs and deliverables are completed. Promotion of the project and dissemination is ongoing with new promotional materials published and the networks and relationships developed are being maintained. Given the success of the project to date the partners are working to explore longer term sustainability.

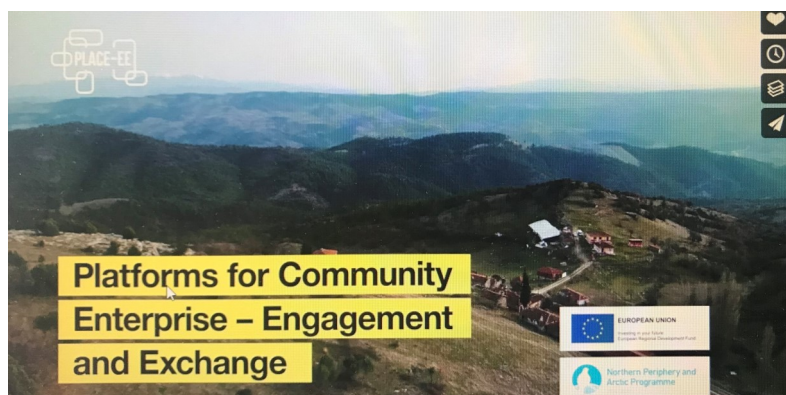
### This issue will:

Highlight the activities in this period and focus in particular on how PLACE-EE has helped partners and participants during COVID19.

### Upcoming Events:

Project Closure events and the Launch of the Transnational Cultural Heritage Archive are being scheduled for the autumn.

Summary video introducing project



## New Promotional Materials

PLACE-EE worked with Kavodfilms.co.uk to design a suite of new publicity materials.

These include:

- a summary Video explaining the project aims, partners, activities and achievements to date.
- a short information Factsheet that is available online and also in hard copy.
- And a summary Powerpoint and Powerpoint template.

We are delighted with these and you can find them all on our website

<http://place-ee.interreg-npa.eu/>



## Transnational Cultural Heritage Archive - Coming Soon!

The past few months have seen a lot of activity in preparing and populating the Archive. We are excited that it is just about ready to launch. Over 100 entries show fascinating local detail about cultural heritage across the regions. The methodology of young people working with older people to discuss and create the detailed entries is so interesting and the Archive also gives some insight into the relationships between the younger and older people.

In the Archive you'll find videos, photographs, music, songs and stories and you will be able to search by region, language and text. We look forward to sharing it with you and thank all our participants for engaging with the project to create such a unique and valuable resource that will be of interest not only to people living in our demonstrator areas but around the world.

*One entry in the Archive is about the Swedish Spark (pictured), The 'spark' (or 'kick' in English) is still a popular way to scoot around on icy streets in northern Sweden.*

*All of our older citizens from the PLACE-EE workshops in Skellefteå remember using a spark when they were children. But some of them think they are not as popular as they once were (possibly due to more grit on pavements and roads that can hinder the skates).*



## PLACE-EE Partners, Participants and COVID19



The PLACE-EE team in Limerick have rolled out an initiative called **Limerick Community Care Connect**. The team have prepared over 1000 care packs which have been delivered through An Post, to cocooning older people, to assist them in focusing on positive things. The packs which are inserted into a PLACE-EE folder contain information about the project including other items such as Library Service leaflets, Sports Partnership leaflets, Bird Watch Ireland factsheet, COVID literature, Flower Seeds, Song Lyrics, Poetry, Pollinator Ireland factsheets. Una Breen an older person who received a pack stated, *'Thank you so much for sending me the pack. It was like Christmas morning here, there were so many useful things and I didn't know what was going to come out of the pack next! ...I enjoyed learning about the Place EE project and I will keep an eye on the archive.'*

The PLACE-EE team aided Mary Cronin one of Limericks PLACE-EE participants to run, a peer to peer chat service called **Reaching Out, Staying Connected**. It was launched 20th April. To date there are 28 individuals, who receive a regular call from a cocooning older person, who will phone for a chat and to help pass the time. This initiative was set up in response to requests from older people who indicated that they are not speaking to or hearing from anyone for days at a time and this service aims to alleviate this situation.

Mary Cronin Limerick



Limerick Care Pack



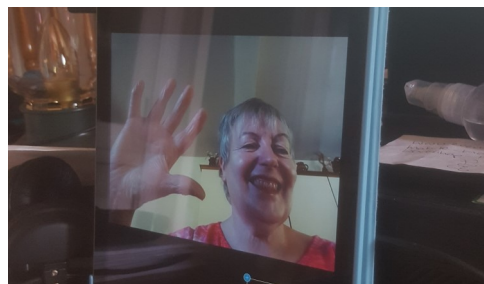
At a time when so many have lost family and friends to COVID19 it can be hard to consider or vocalise positives outcomes of the pandemic. However in Fermanagh & Omagh, we have found that in terms of older people and digital technology there has been a massive step forward. Older people who had previously skirted around the use of digital devices have now embraced the lifeline it presents to them. Those who had never considered the need for such technology have quickly learned the practical /essential benefits such applications can offer, including online banking, shopping and the video call components of apps like Facebook and WhatsApp enabling them to keep in touch and connected to family and friends.

*"Digital technology has enabled me to stay in touch with loved ones, so although I was isolated, I was never alone. My grandson was born seven weeks ago, during lockdown, and only for the likes of WhatsApp and Facebook I wouldn't have seen him or shared in this special family moment"* Desmond, Dromore.

*I'm an avid reader, so when lockdown happened, and I only had six books in the house, I decided, if I was going to get through this lockdown in one piece, I had to learn how to access books digitally. I had previously downloaded an app called 'Overdrive' onto my phone, 'Overdrive' is the NI Libraries online collect, but I had never used it and it took the lockdown for me to finally access it, now I couldn't be without it.* Ellen, Gortin

The meteoric rise of video conferencing may well have changed people's working lives forever, but it has also presented us with a new tool in combating the social isolation of our older people, especially those living in the most rural parts of our community. Fermanagh & Omagh District Council through the PLACE-EE Project is currently undertaking consultations via video conferencing with older people from across the district, and delivering where needed, one to one tuition on using video

Zoom meeting with Ellen, FODC



conferencing programmes. This ensures that many of our older people have the skills, and more importantly, the confidence to fully embrace this opportunity to continue to participate and interact with their peers. Once the consultation is complete, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council PLACE-EE will then roll out a suite of online activities; social, recreational, educational and advice based that will continue to support, encourage and promote social interactions for our older people.



FJARDABYGGÐ

Drawing from what we learned in our participation in PLACE-EE Fjardabyggd successfully applied for special funding from the Icelandic government, through the Ministry of Health, for supplementary projects in adult social work for Summer 2020.

We will use this finance to increase activity, make pop up events, and keep the senior society active throughout the summer. COVID-19 means it is very important to re-start the social work of senior citizens, as most elderly has been in self-contained isolation. Fjardabyggd hopes that PLACE-EE and these additional projects will help reduce social isolation of senior citizens and increase their well-being.



**Skellefteå  
kommun**

The world-wide COVID19 pandemic has had an obvious impact on the work of the PLACE-EE project in Skellefteå. In Sweden we have had less restrictions on public freedoms than other countries, however our care homes and older people in general have been isolated to avoid the risk of transmission. This has meant that those issues we attempted to address, such as isolation and loneliness, will likely increase as we have not been able to continue our intergenerational work.

In response to this challenge, we have thought about what we can realistically do to continue to address loneliness and isolation in older people during this unprecedented time. In short, how can we keep the PLACE-EE show on the road in Skellefteå during the pandemic? Taking a cue from a recent pilot in Stockholm we are planning to explore using devices with voice technology AI in our care homes. The idea being that talking to artificial intelligence is probably better than having no interaction at all. We plan to keep the intergenerational aspect alive by recruiting young job-seekers and their role will be to provide remote set-up and technology support. We are planning the initial trial after the summer.



For further information  
please contact us via:

Website: <http://place-ee.interreg-npa.eu/>

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