

Glossary of Terms

Care settings for older people

A care setting for older people can be a residential facility or a day centre. Residential care facilities (also known as old people's homes) are long-term care facilities which provide supervision and assistance with daily living, medical and nursing services. Senior citizens centres (also known as adult day centres) offer social, cultural and learning activities on a non-residential basis.

Childcare settings

A childcare setting is an organised service which offers a variety of group care, development and learning opportunities to young children in the years before they attend primary school. Across Europe there are a range of terms used to describe such setting e.g. crèche, kindergarten, nursery, preschool playgroup or children's centre. Sometimes the umbrella term 'early childhood education and care' (ECEC) is used to describe such settings.

Formal learning (settings)

Formal learning is learning that takes place within a frequently graded education system and includes settings such as preprimary, primary schools, secondary schools and third-level educational institutions.

Informal learning (settings)

Informal learning is the lifelong process by which everyone acquires and accumulates knowledge, skills, attitudes and insights from daily life.

Intergenerational learning (IGL)

Intergenerational learning involves different age-groups learning together, from each other and about each other in a range of settings.

Lifelong learning

Lifelong learning refers to learning and training which can occur across a lifetime. The term is also used to reflect the view that everyone should have the opportunity to engage in learning at any time during their life.

Lifewide learning

Lifewide learning highlights learning that can take place across a full range of life experiences and at any stage. It covers a multitude of levels, means and activities. It includes formal, non-formal and informal learning.

Mediators (of IGL practice)

In the context of the TOY project mediators of IGL practice are typically ECEC practitioners, social care practitioners, teachers, community workers, senior volunteers and parents. Their role is to offer support for both groups as an interpreter across the generations.

Non-formal learning (settings)

Non-formal learning is any organised, systematic, educational activity carried on outside the formal education system. Examples of where non-formal learning takes place include

parent and toddler groups, older people's clubs and youth clubs.

Older person

There is no agreement on what being 'old' is. Definitions differ depending on the policy and cultural context: e.g. retirement age, the age at which one qualifies for state benefits or, life expectancy, etc. The age range of between 60 or 65, roughly equivalent to retirement ages in most developed countries, is said to be the beginning of old age (WHO, 2007). However, as more people live longer healthier lives, perceptions of what is 'old age' are also increasing.

Senior volunteer

In the context of the TOY project, a senior volunteer is an older person (55 years +) who has a specific role and responsibility within an initiative or an activity. The role is undertaken out of interest and there is no remuneration involved.

Senior beneficiary

In the context of the TOY project, a senior beneficiary is defined as an older person (55 years +) who is a participant in an activity as a beneficiary along with children.