

3rd Age University of Jyväskylä FIN



South-eastern view of Jyväskylä



To days' U3A:s in Finland

1 Jyväskylä (since 1985)

2 Helsinki

3 Turku

4 Tampere

5 Joensuu

6 Kuopio

7 Vaasa

8 Oulu

9 Rovaniemi



What is the "3rd Age"?

Professor Peter Laslett (1915 – 2002) defined the theory of the "3rd Age" in his book "A Fresh Map of Life" (1989) by differentiating four eras of ageing

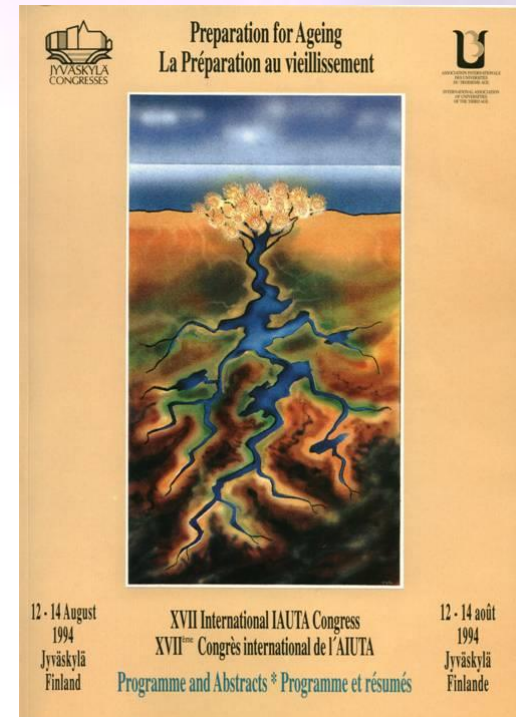
- 1. Era CHILDHOOD and YOUTH**
dependence, socialization and education
- 2. Era WORKING, EARNING and SAVING**
independence, maturity and responsibility
- 3. Era SENIOR CITIZENSHIP → "3rd Age"**
personal fulfilment and retirement,
- 4. Era FINAL ABANDONMENT and DEATH**
loneliness and retreat



AIUTA - World wide U3A association

- **First U3A was found in Toulouse 1973**
- **International Association of U3A was found in 1976**
- **Jyväskylä joined AIUTA in 1986**

- **AIUTA congress in Jyväskylä in 1994,
Theme: "Preparation for Ageing"
783 participants from 30 countries**



Objectives of U3A

- **Sustaining of physical, psychological and social condition of older people**
- **Promoting of equality in schooling between generations**
- **Advancing dialogue between generations**
- **Cooperating between gerontological research and practical work with the aged**
- **Corresponding to present-day's schooling demands**
- **Creating opportunities for lifelong learning**
- **Harnessing U3A's own resources**
(planning, peer-tutor activities, emeritus-society etc.)

The U3A activities in Jyväskylä

- **17 000 participants** (net 8 008 persons) in **Finland** (2005)
7 540 participants (net 1 611 persons) in **Jyväskylä**
- **Jointly with the Municipality and the University of Jyväskylä activities are arranged by the Summer University such as:**
- **Lecture series** (studia generalia – type and with emphasis on health and self care)
- **Seminars** (research, writing and literature, cultural tradition, genealogy, seniors' wisdom philosophy etc.)
- **Creative working groups** (e.g. Senior Theatre and Senior Choir)
- **Study tours** (organized by the seniors themselves)
- **Publications** (until now 22 anthologies and 9 reports)
- **International networking**
- **ICT-skills for seniors** (courses in computer skills → **Geronet**)

U3A open to all

- no entry requirements
- no age limits
- no gender preferences, ~ 80 % of the participants are women
- the ages have varied from 50 to 94 years old
- the vocational profile is very heterogeneous



Financing of the U3A activities

FEES FOR THE STUDENTS:

- 1985-86 no lecture fees, local banks were sponsoring

TODAY'S FEES:

- 20 € for lecture series per semester
- 60-100 € for seminars and computer courses
- The fees cover ~35 % of the expenses

OTHER RESOURCES:

- ~ 16% is paid by the Municipality of Jyväskylä (2005)
- ~ 30 % comes through projects such as Geronet, which are subsidized by the National Board of Education and the State Provincial Office of Western Finland
- ~ 17 % comes from the Finnish Ministry of Education



U3A lectures have been very popular from the very beginning

(Picture: Ending the spring term 7.5.1986)

International networking

- **Member of the AIUTA (since 1986)**
- **Cooperation with northern countries**
- **Learning in Later Life (LiLL)**
- **Adult Education and the Museum**
- **SPECIAL**
- **eLiLL**
- **ADD LIFE !**
- **ICT-cooperation with Jyväskylä's friendship-town Potsdam**

Who are learning?

		L	E	I	S	U	R	E	L	Y					
			C	L	E	A	R	L	Y						
				I	N	D	I	V	I	D	U	A	L	L	Y
P	R	A	C	T	I	S	I	N	G						
L	I	F	E	L	O	N	G								
		L	E	A	R	N	I	N	G						
			E	A	S	I	L	Y							

Thank you



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