

Making Recycled Toys: A Training Guide for Seniors

Developed by the Ageing Green Project Partners: Spain, Germany, and Turkey

Introduction:

Welcome, fellow partners from Spain, Germany, and Turkey! This training guide, produced collaboratively under the Ageing Green Project (2022-2-TR01-KA210-ADU 000097857), financed by the Turkish National Agency within the Erasmus+ framework, serves as a final project outcome. As the second activity of the Ageing Green Project, this guide aims to equip seniors across our three nations with the skills and knowledge to create fun and educational toys from recycled materials.

Erasmus+ and the Ageing Green Project:

Erasmus+, a European Union program fostering education, training, youth, and sport, provided the platform for this collaborative project. The Ageing Green Project, through this training guide, strives to promote intergenerational connections, environmental awareness, and creative expression among senior citizens in Spain, Germany, and Turkey.

Benefits of Recycled Toy Making:

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Upcycling household items into toys reduces waste and promotes environmental consciousness.
- **Cognitive Stimulation:** The creative process of designing and building toys keeps minds active and engaged.
- **Intergenerational Bonding:** Sharing this activity with children or grandchildren fosters communication and connection.
- **Skill Development:** Learning new techniques and using tools enhances dexterity and fine motor skills.

Getting Started:

This guide provides a general framework for conducting recycled toy making workshops for seniors. Partners from each country can adapt the content to cater to local preferences, readily available materials, and cultural themes.

The Training Sessions:

- **Session 1: Introduction to Recycled Toys:** This session will introduce the concept of upcycling and showcase inspiring examples of recycled toys.
- **Session 2: Exploring Materials:** Participants will explore readily available household items—plastic bottles, cardboard tubes, fabric scraps—with the potential to be transformed into toys.
- **Session 3: Design and Planning:** Seniors will brainstorm toy ideas, sketch designs, and plan their creations.
- **Session 4: Hands-on Toy Making:** Guided by project partners, participants will engage in building their chosen toys using safe and simple tools.
- **Session 5: Sharing and Celebration:** The final session will be a lively showcase where participants present their creations and celebrate their accomplishments.

Additional Considerations:

- **Language Accessibility:** Depending on the participant group, translations or multilingual materials could be provided.
- **Adapting for Different Abilities:** Partners can adapt the activities to accommodate varying physical capabilities and learning styles.
- **Fun and Inclusive Environment:** Create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere where seniors feel comfortable trying new things.

Conclusion:

This training guide, a product of our collaborative efforts within the Ageing Green Project, empowers seniors across Spain, Germany, and Turkey to create meaningful experiences through repurposed materials. By fostering environmental awareness, intergenerational connections, and individual creativity, we pave the way for a more sustainable and connected future.