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<http://www.renewtown.eu/>

## IMPROVING INTERGENERATIONAL COHESION: A POSITIVE SIDE-EFFECT OF THE RENEWTOWN PILOT ACTION IN VELENJE

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### ABSTRACT

*The Research Network on an Ageing Society (<http://www.agingsocietynetwork.org/research>) funded by the MacArthur Foundation and hosted at the Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health identifies three important themes embedded in the concept of the Ageing Society. One of them "relates to both the positive and negative implications of the cluster of intergenerational issues at the levels of society and the family. One positive aspect of an Aging Society, for example, is the opportunity it will likely provide for the creative enhancement of interaction between generations, characterized by transfers of support, wisdom, and knowledge. On the other hand, a possible negative aspect of an Aging Society could be political warfare between generations."*

*Following from the theme description we define intergenerational cohesion as a consequence of any positive interaction between generations, characterized by two-way transfers of support (be it emotional or economic to name just two possibilities), wisdom, and knowledge.*

*It seems natural to expect a higher intergenerational cohesion in rural as opposed to urban settlements. However, that does not mean that intergenerational cohesion in urban settlements cannot be improved. In this paper we describe an approach towards improvement of intergenerational cohesion that was implemented in the framework of the ReNewTown project (<http://www.renewtown.eu/>). The usefulness of the approach which builds on the so-called 'supported voluntarism' (Ograjenšek and Cirman, 2013) is demonstrated using the Slovenian post-socialist city of Velenje as a showcase.*