

Newsletter August 2026



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## SC meetings May/June 2026.

The Steering Committee meetings reviewed progress in the final implementation phase, with a focus on student engagement, completion of Modules 1–3, and preparations for the Learning Expeditions. The methodology and preparatory activities for the five-day expeditions were finalized, with targets of at least 18 students, 20 older adults, and two student-led initiatives per expedition. Partners also reviewed the remaining conferences, project deliverables, and timeline, emphasizing the completion of all activities and deliverables before the October 2026 project deadline.

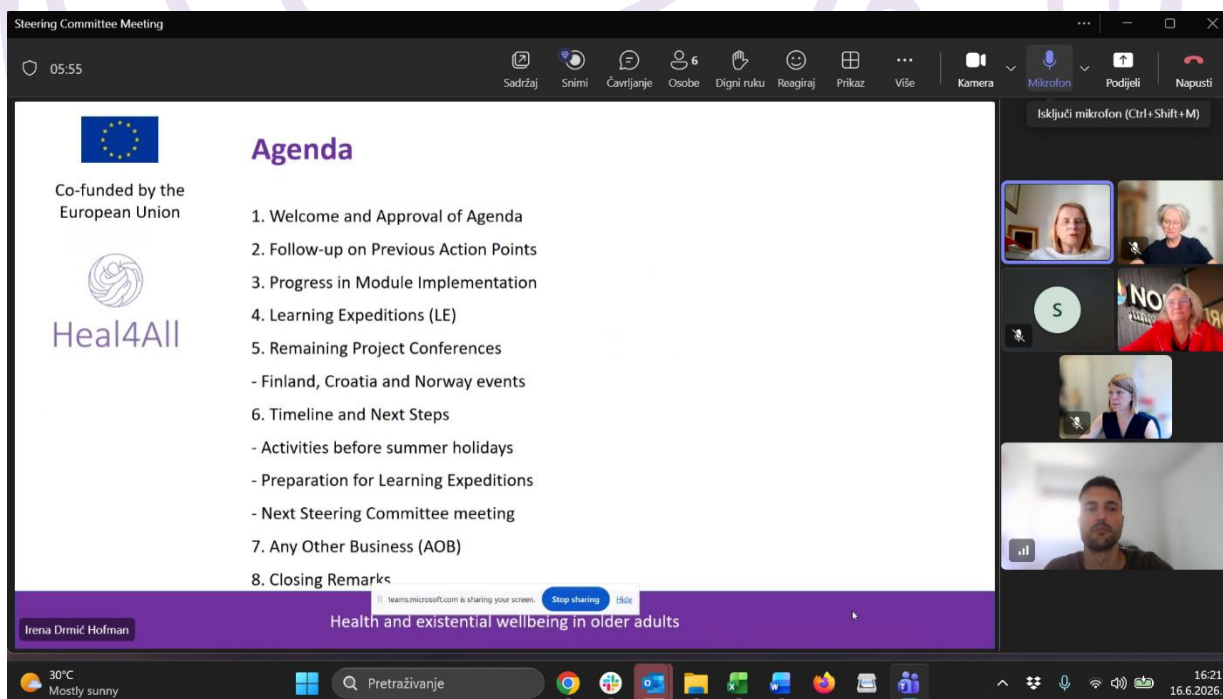
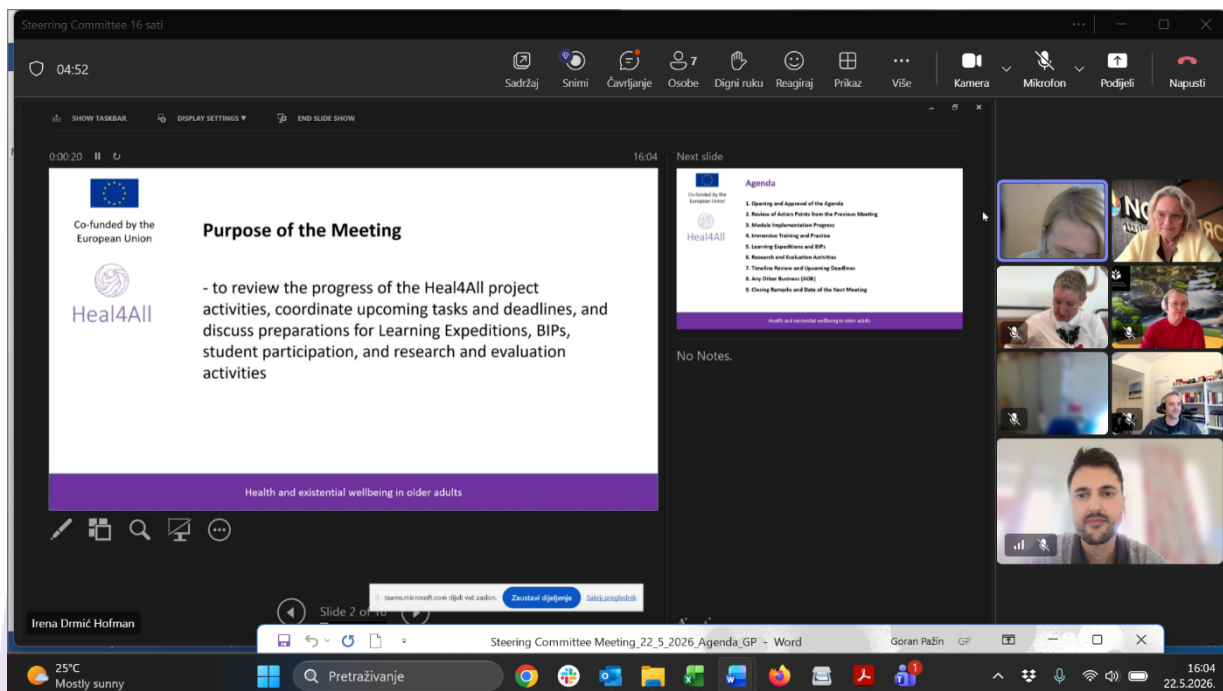


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## 1st Learning Expedition in Joensuu, Finland

The **UEF Summer School (17–21 August 2026)** provided an intensive, student-centred learning experience focused on **existential well-being in later life and professional competence in care encounters**. The programme progressed from building a shared learning community and exploring key concepts such as meaning, joy, competence and spirituality, towards experiential and embodied learning, intercultural competence, and public engagement. Lectures, group work, reflection activities, cultural experiences and the **EWB Compass mobile application** were integrated throughout the week to connect theoretical knowledge with practical learning.



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## 1st Learning Expedition in Joensuu, Finland

A strong emphasis was placed on **active student participation and collaborative learning**. Students worked in groups throughout the week, prepared contributions for a public conference event, engaged with local communities and culture, and reflected on existential well-being from academic, professional and intercultural perspectives. The programme concluded with **student presentations, feedback on the EWB Compass application and collective reflection**, enabling participants to integrate their learning and identify opportunities for further development of their professional competences.



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## Conference in Joensuu, Finland

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The **HEAL4ALL** conference “**Wellbeing, Spirituality and Participation in Later Life: Perspectives, Experiences and Encounters**” was held on **20 August 2026** at the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu, as part of the HEAL4ALL Student Learning Expedition. The event brought together **more than 50 attendees**: students, academics and stakeholders to explore spirituality, wellbeing and participation in later life. The programme included a keynote lecture on **Spirituality in Old Age**, followed by a panel discussion featuring perspectives from academia, social services and higher education. The conference was offered both **on-site and online**, providing an opportunity for wider participation and meaningful dialogue on the diverse experiences and factors shaping wellbeing in later life..



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**20.8.2026 14:00 – 17:00**  
**CONFERENCE EVENT**  
**WELLBEING, SPIRITUALITY AND**  
**PARTICIPATION IN LATER LIFE**  
**Perspectives, Experiences and**  
**Encounters**

**Free and open to all!**

**On-site: University of Eastern Finland,  
Agora building, Lecture Hall AT100.**

**Or online via Zoom – scan the QR-code.**



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**PROGRAMME:**

Chair: Dr. Tiia Liuski

**14:00 Opening remarks**

**14:10 Keynote lecture:**

**Spirituality in Old Age**

Dr. Jonna Ojalammil,  
UEF, University Lecturer

**15:10 – 15:20 Break**

**15:20 – 16:20 Panel**

**Discussion: Wellbeing  
and Belonging in Later  
Life**

Dr. Henna Karhapää,  
Joensuu settlement ry,  
Dr. Iiris Lehto, UEF,  
Department of Social  
Sciences,  
Associate Professor  
Solveig Thomassen, Nord  
University,  
Assistant Professor Ivana  
Carev, University of Split

**16:25 - 17:00 Closing  
coffee and Networking**

For on-site participants  
only



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Be part of our journey as we transform  
healthcare education across Europe!



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