



# Annual Report

2022



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FOREWORDS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Ebbe Johansen, President .....	3
Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General .....	4
<b>THE VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE IN EUROPE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Our vision and mission .....	6
AGE's core values and guiding principles .....	6
Our network in key figures .....	7
<b>WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE IN 2022? .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2022 Highlights .....	9
Promoting age equality at EU and UN levels .....	12
Ensuring equal participation and autonomy of older people .....	16
Raising the voice of older people experiencing multiple discrimination .....	19
Making our voice stronger .....	21
<b>ABOUT OUR NETWORK .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Our membership and governance .....	23
Our communication tools .....	31
Our funding .....	32
AGE in brief .....	33





## FOREWORDS

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## Ebbe Johansen, President

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In 2022, the issue of care was central to AGE work. In January we had a meeting with the European Commissioner Dubravka Šuica to discuss the future of the Green Paper on ageing. The plan from the European Commission is to establish a care strategy for all ages. AGE will contribute with a plan for the older people. We also focused on the need for getting more caregivers and for their skill development. During our meeting Mr Šuica pointed out our AGE Barometer as a very good tool to ensure EU policies are adapted to older people.

In June we attended a ministerial conference in Rome on the review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). One of the 3 themes was Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families. Here impressive figures were given on the weight of care work provided by relatives and volunteers, which adds up to 80 % of all care work for older people.

In 2022 came the report from Biscay of the project: Developing the Long-Term Care Empowerment Model. A major change is to give the older people an option to decide themselves what kind of service they prefer. This power of

autonomy points to a future where we are heard, and our wishes taken into account with empathy.

A final remark is that research has proven, that the people of 70th today are equally fresh and active as the 50th were beforehand. We can enjoy a long and good life.

Regarding our network, AGE has been able to attract several new members in the last few years. We have experienced much more activities between members within our Task Forces. The number of Task Forces has been reduced down to clarify and intensify the work. Then we put in place a leadership with representatives from members and secretariat to improve exchange of experience and practices between our members and strengthen our platform for members to express their wishes toward the political work. That input supports the advocacy work of AGE towards the European Commission and Parliament. We look forward to continued high interaction from our members.



## Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General

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The year 2022 was both exciting and challenging. While we were thrilled to reconnect, we also needed energy and dedication to build back from the pandemic, as well as courage to face an unpredictable global environment. At AGE Europe Platform with our members and older people across Europe, we have further advanced toward AGE's goal of creating a [Society for All Ages](#).

At the European level, we have raised awareness of the various contributions that we older people make to society and the economy by sharing our skills, knowledge and experience through paid and unpaid work, volunteering and civic and political participation. With the support of the Czech Presidency, our annual conference marked the implementation start of the EU Care Strategy. We provided evidence of a radical change of the care system, which must empower older people and ensure our full participation in society. To promote the equal enjoyment of rights among older people, gender equality and, more broadly, intersectionality of old age, gender, sexual orientation, disability and ethnicity were integrated into our work in 2022. In the face of the growing impact of digitalisation, we pledge even stronger for maintaining offline access to goods and services, so that everyone can participate in society.

At global level, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Madrid International Plan of

Action on Ageing (MIPAA). We urged our governments to re-focus the Plan's objectives on human rights and to mainstream them into national policy making. As

a sign of solidarity with Ukraine, we raised awareness of the realities faced by older people fleeing from and those remaining in Ukraine. Some of our member organisations have mobilised to support older refugees from Ukraine. The experience of the Covid-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine makes it even clearer how much we need a binding international instrument to protect the rights of older persons. Throughout 2022 we intensified AGE's long-standing efforts to get our governments to support a UN Convention on the rights of older people.

But above all, the year 2022 allowed our members to reconnect. Through physical meetings and direct exchanges – which we had missed so much over the past two years – we have strengthened our collective and individual capacities to promote age equality and the life course approach to ageing, to fight against the rise of extremism, to combat disinformation and, ultimately, to strengthen democracy. All these efforts will be continued in 2023.







## THE VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE IN EUROPE

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## Our vision and mission

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As expressed in our motto ‘Toward A society for ALL ages’ AGE’s vision encompasses an inclusive society, which focuses on people’s well-being, autonomy and equal participation in society at all stages of their lives.

We want longevity to be celebrated as one of the greatest achievements of humanity and not a burden and cost to society. For that, we seek to combat ageism and promote human rights throughout the life course.

Recognised as the voice of the older population in Europe for more than 20 years, AGE Platform Europe (AGE) is a network of organisations of and for older people across Europe. Our mission is to represent the interests of our members on the EU and global policymaking scenes to

support EU policies that meet the diversity of needs and aspirations of current and future generations of older people.

To achieve this mission:

- we raise the voice of older people bridging the gap between them and policymakers;
- we transform our members’ experiences and ideas into policy proposals, advocacy, campaigning, dissemination actions and projects;
- we support our members’ active involvement in AGE’s work while promoting mutual learning and networking;
- we promote a more realistic and positive framing of ageing and old age.

## AGE’s core values and guiding principles

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- **Respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law,** the European Union’s fundamental values.
- **Human rights and dignity do not diminish with age!** And must be respected throughout each individual’s life course.
- **Older people are self-advocates.** Everyone should be supported to speak on their own behalf as the ultimate experts of their own lives.
- **Older women and men are a resource for our societies** through their contributions through work, volunteering, informal care, creativity, experience and as consumers.
- **Intergenerational solidarity strengthens inclusion and justice between generations** respecting and benefiting everyone’s experiences, sensibilities, and expectations.
- **Age-friendly environments** are essential for equitable and inclusive communities for all ages.



## Our network in key figures

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- Founded in **2001**
- Brussels-based secretariat
- **14** staff members of diverse nationalities
- **111** member organisations covering **30** countries
- **4** permanent Tasks Forces (TF) (which met **15** times in 2022)
- Involved in **15** EU-funded projects on ageing-related issues

Find out more about AGE network in the last chapter of this report.







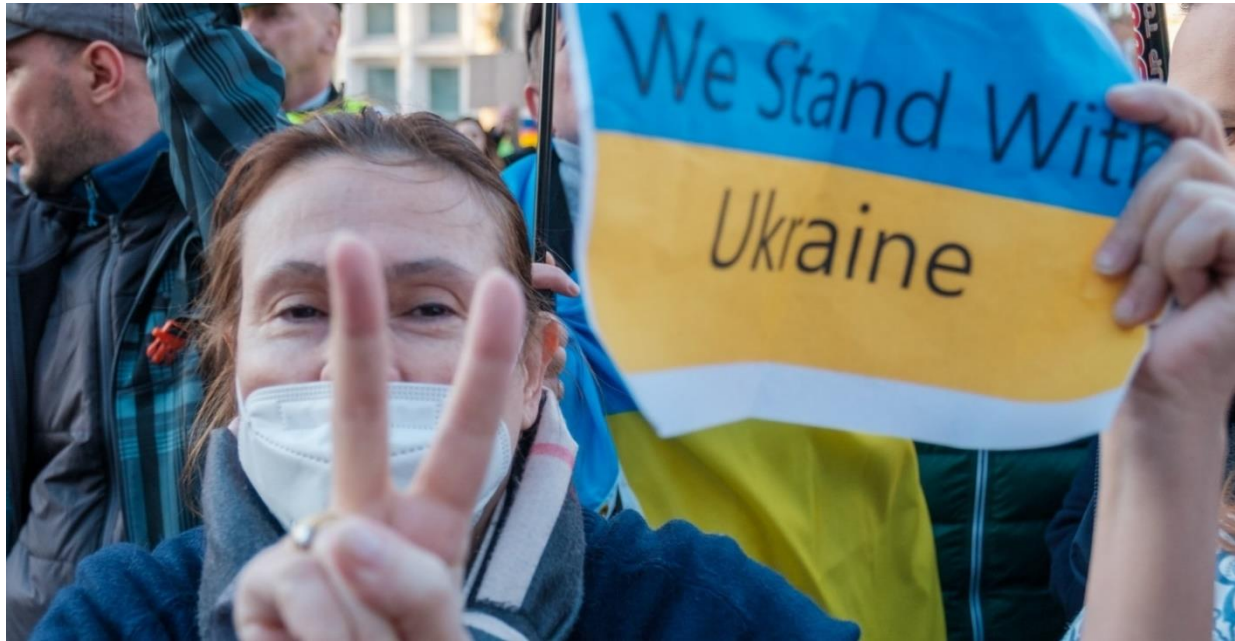
## WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE IN 2022?

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## 2022 Highlights

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### — The War in Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, violating international rules and human rights of millions of people. This represents the ‘oldest’ humanitarian crisis as Ukraine is one of the fastest ageing countries in the world (UN DESA, 2019).

#### Expressing solidarity and concerns

Our work aimed at showing solidarity with older people living in Ukraine and fleeing Ukraine, highlighting their needs and how their rights are not equally respected during humanitarian emergencies. Under the current international legal framework older people are only protected to the extent that they can be considered as persons with disabilities (under in Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). We monitored the situation of older people in Ukraine thanks to our partners, including the European Disability Forum,

HelpAge International (several of our members are involved in HelpAge’s Europe network), the European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO), and Amnesty International. In a [Special Briefing](#) we insisted on the importance for older people to receive equal access to humanitarian aid with other groups such as children and women.

#### Calling for EU support to older Ukrainians

We organised an [event](#) together with Members of the European Parliament in the context of the European Day Solidarity between Generations on 29 April, and published a second [policy brief](#). There, we made key recommendations for the EU to fulfil Ukrainian older persons’ urgent needs. We highlighted the need to collect and analyse age and sex-disaggregated data to get a clear understanding of the situation of older

people in Ukraine. We also pointed out the need to use an intersectional perspective, notably when addressing the needs of older women and older persons with disabilities.

In November, we published a third [policy brief](#), where we reported on the situation of older people both in Ukraine and in some EU neighbouring countries. This was a joint policy brief, where we gathered inputs from one organisation in Ukraine – Age Concern Ukraine –

and 3 of our members: Bonum Vitae (Poland), Alzheimer Polska (Poland), and Omenia (Romania). The aim of this policy paper was to call on the EU to take into account the needs of older people in its emergency response and in the future recovery plan. Along with this policy paper, we published a [press release](#) in which we announced that the last part of our Annual Conference was going to portray the global dimension of the rights of older persons including in the context of the war in Ukraine.



## — Towards a new vision of care in Europe

### Care that empowers

[‘Care must empower us throughout our lives’](#), as reads the title of our publication, which sums up one year of reflection on a new long-term care model by AGE members. Published in early 2022, the paper builds our fundamental position for rights-based long-term care systems and the steps needed to achieve them – in time for the European Commission’s call for inputs towards a

new EU Care Strategy. This Strategy was [published in September](#) and adopted in the form of a [Council recommendation in December](#). It structured our policy work on long-term care throughout the year. Empowerment of older people in health and care decision-making was also the focus of our work in the [SHAPES](#) project. A report on the topic was drafted from a human-rights based perspective and with input from AGE’s work on the EU care strategy;



the report was also presented during a [dialogue workshop](#) in November 2022.

Our [conference 'A Europe that Cares is a Europe that Empower'](#) and a [joint seminar on ageing opportunities](#) organised with the World Bank were also instrumental in having our voice heard on EU level and exchanging practices for accessible, affordable and quality long-term care.

## Care that is rights-based

To clarify what we mean by rights-based long-term care concretely, we submitted a [response to the European Commission's Call for Evidence](#) and lobbied on the [relevant European Parliament resolution](#). We also put forward amendments to the proposed Council recommendation to strengthen the role of the right to independence and the prevention of abuse and neglect in these documents. In this defining moment for EU policy on long-term care, we also gathered a group of civil society organisations representing the different interests on long-term care to develop advocacy letters and a joint event with a first assessment.

In parallel, our cooperation of several years with the Spanish province of Biscay to develop a model for rights-based care concluded with [a final report and a conference](#) in the European Economic and Social Committee. Drawing from this report, our work on the EU Care strategy and AGE's advocacy handbook, we prepared a training for the [Covid Resilience](#) project on "Engaging with policy makers and advocating for policy change in the process of EU accession". This training focused on the topics of age,

ageism and long-term care together with the European Disability Forum.

Finally, as part of two EU-funded projects, we also contributed to the drafting of **policy recommendations** on:

- The earlier detection of **palliative care** for [InAdvance](#), reflecting on the steps needed to achieve a rights-based long-term care. Those recommendations relied on the results from an internal consultation on accessing palliative care organised in October and were also aligned with our main messages towards the EU Care strategy. On this basis, we will push policy makers to act for equal strategy to access palliative care, especially for older adults.
- The development of an **integrated model of care** based on the value of care that focuses on the outcomes and the perceived value of the care pathway rather than its costs, for [Valuecare](#). This new paradigm will shift towards a more person-centred care, considering the perceived value of care for older citizens when accessing care.

Our recommendations for integrated care resulted from a workshop that we organized with AGE members. Those included the need for policy makers to find a solution to the financial gaps and include the various diversity of older persons. They raised the importance of integrated care and a multidisciplinary approach. Technological support cannot replace human contact, which should remain a priority. Integration and value of care are also encompassed in the Council recommendations of the EU Care strategy.

# Promoting age equality at EU and UN levels

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## — Advocating for an EU age equality strategy

The proposal for an EU Age Equality Strategy provides EU policymakers with recommendations for a set of comprehensive measures and actions to advance the rights of older people. AGE drafted this [proposal](#) together with its members as a follow-up to the European Green Paper on Ageing, aiming at building a 'Union of Equality. After we expressed our disappointment about the lack of a comprehensive response to the conclusions of last year's European consultation on the [Green Paper on Ageing](#) in an open [letter to President Ursula von der Leyen](#), our President and Secretary General [met in January 2022](#) European Commission's Vice-President Dubravka Suica responsible for democracy and demography. Referring to President Ursula von der Leyen's ambition to create an Equality Union, Vice-President Suica reiterated her commitment to mainstreaming ageing in all EU policies and initiatives and made a clear pledge for a more equal and inclusive society throughout the whole life course.

In the end of March, we cohosted a working meeting on Equality for all Ages in the EU with the UN Human Rights Regional Office (OHCHR) for Europe, the European Youth Forum and the World Health Organization (WHO). This meeting brought together representatives of several EU actors including the European Commission, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Equinet and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). The objective of this meeting was to raise awareness and visibility of

ageism at the European level and discuss potential ways to address it, in using the existing EU framework and potential new initiatives.

We made sure to continuously be in contact with our key counterparts in the European Commission, notably with the Directorate General in charge of Justice and Consumers and the Task Force on Equality. It resulted in our participation into the European Commission internal event on *Mainstreaming Ageing and Age Equality* which gathered more than 100 participants (December 2022). We made a presentation together with Maureen Kavanagh (Active Retirement Ireland) on ageism and its effects, the EU policy responses to protect the rights of older people and our proposal for an EU Age Equality Strategy.

The 2022 Human Rights Day also offered us a perfect opportunity to reiterate our call for an EU Age Equality Strategy and release a [two-pagers summarising our proposal](#). This milestone helps us to build the bridge with 2023 and the preparation of our campaign for the European Parliament elections.

Advocacy for the AGE equality strategy was also supported through our work in the frame of the EU-funded project [e-Vita](#), in particular through policy and society sessions at the e-vita mid-term conference in July. As a part of this project, and on the occasion of the review of the Madrid International Plan on Ageing ([MIPAA+20](#)), we drafted a report on [the impact of countries' ageing policies on e-vita](#).

## — Advocating for an UN Convention on the rights of older people

We want to ensure that people, no matter their age, can live in dignity and enjoy equal rights. The adoption of a [United Nations' convention](#) would help fill existing gaps in the protection of older people's rights.



In 2022, we advocated for a UN convention at two major events:

### The UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

From 11 to 14 April 2022, we participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG12). We submitted [written contributions](#) for 2022's focus areas on Economic Security and Contribution of Older Persons to Sustainable Development. In addition, we also submitted one written contribution on normative elements: Right to Work and Access to the Labour Market and Access to Justice.

#### Preparations

Ahead of the OEWG12, we organised a joint webinar with our Spanish member – Confederación Española de Organizaciones de Mayores (CEOMA). The aim of this meeting was to bring members of the Spanish Platform on the rights of older people up to speed with the OEWG developments and discuss potential follow-up to the 12<sup>th</sup> session, especially in light of the upcoming Spanish Presidency of the EU.

We collaborated with other OEWG-accredited NGOs and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), facilitated by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons (GAROP) to prepare key messages for our oral statements.

On 12 April Ms. Heidrun Mollenkopf (BAGSO) met on behalf of AGE with the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Silvio Gonzato. They discussed the involvement of the European Union at the OEWG12 and why a convention on

the rights of older people is needed, including the need to implement a human rights-based approach to advance the rights of older people at EU level.

#### Outcome and follow-up

One of the key outcomes of this session was Austria's public support in the adoption of a UN convention being the second EU member State after Slovenia to commit to adopting such a convention. On the last day of the OEWG12, Argentina invited Member States to join a Cross-Regional Core Group, with the aim of working in-between the intersessional periods to discuss gaps in the international human rights system for older persons and create a draft decision to be presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the OEWG in 2023.

### UN Multi-stakeholder meeting

From 29 to 30 August, we participated in the multi-stakeholder meeting held at the United Nations in Geneva. The meeting aimed to discuss gaps in the protection of the human rights of older persons in international human rights law and mechanisms. The recommendations that we and other civil society organisations made on the content of a UN convention on the rights of older persons were compiled in a [Report Summary Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#). The report also reiterates that civil society organisations should be actively and consistently involved in the



processes that relating to the human rights of older people, one of our key demands.

We engaged with our members and prepared 4 [statements](#) that were submitted to the Human Rights Council in Geneva. We joined other 412 organisations in writing a [joint statement](#) on behalf of GAROP, where we asked Member States to:

- Adopt at the Human Rights Council 52nd session a new substantive resolution that recognizes the findings of the High Commissioner's report and defines concrete steps to close the protection gaps for older persons.

- Call Upon the UN General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing to take fully into account the findings and recommendations of this multi-stakeholder meeting to fulfil its mandate.
- Start drafting a UN convention on the rights of older persons now so that we can all age with rights.

Following the Multi-stakeholder meeting, the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons was renewed, following a Resolution that was adopted during the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (12 September - 7 October).

## — Strengthening capacities on age equality and the human rights

We strengthened the capacity of our members to prepare the **12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG12)** through the organisation of preparatory webinars and bilateral meetings in which we supported our members in engaging with their governments. One of the advocacy activities was the Global Rally – an online campaign organised by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP). In preparation of the Multi-stakeholder meeting – that was complementary to the OEWG12 – we organised an online meeting to prepare [contributions](#) that were presented during the sessions.

In December 2021, AGE Executive Committee members decided to dismantle the Task Force on Human Rights with the aim to mainstream human rights across all Task Forces. We provided our members with a checklist on the **human rights-based approach**, as to better equip our members in mainstreaming the human rights-based approach in their daily

work. We also delivered a training to members on how to apply a human rights-based approach within the Task Force Employment, Participation, and Active Citizenship and another one to the Nordic Older People's Organisation, where we notably presented arguments in favour of a UN convention on the rights of older people and the key takeaways of the Open-Ended Working Group and Multi-stakeholder meeting. This was the opportunity to discuss the upcoming Swedish Presidency and the way forward.

Internally, we organised three Human Rights Deep Dive Sessions that aimed to build knowledge and capacity on applying a human rights-based approach among AGE members of staff: Intersectionality; Gender Approach to Ageing; and Participation. Finally, we co-organised an internal training with ILGA-Europe to better understand the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that older LGBTI face and how we could better collaborate.

## — Work with the European Parliament



### Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

We continued our work with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) within the Interest group on solidarity between generations. Following a joint call by us together with the European Disability Forum and the European Public Service Union representing care workers, the European Parliament (EP) set up a Special Committee on the lessons learned from COVID-19. We first welcomed the establishment of the Special Committee, but soon realised that its mandate would be over without addressing the experience of the groups most affected by the pandemic, which include as older persons, care workers and persons with disabilities. We therefore called on the EP President to prolong the mandate, which allowed for additional public hearings on vulnerable groups and on the impact of the pandemic on fundamental rights.

### Proposing amendments on key issues

Throughout the year, we proposed amendments on major files that the European Parliament was working on, such as the EU Care Strategy, the European

Semester, the EU's digital policy, mental health in digital work, or on human rights in the world and the EU's policy.

### Towards a revision of EU treaties that is 'age friendly'?

In the aftermath of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the European Parliament decided to launch a procedure to propose amendments to the founding treaties of the EU. We drafted a letter to the Chairs of relevant EP committees to outline our priorities if the treaties were to be revised: in order to enable comprehensive policies on ageing on EU level, we called for unblocking the equal treatment legislation, which currently needs unanimity of EU Member States. Qualified majority voting would allow for the adoption of a directive proposal pending for over 10 years to ban age discrimination. We also supported the integration of the European Pillar of Social Rights into the treaties and the adoption of mandatory social objectives in the European Semester process.

# Ensuring equal participation and autonomy of older people

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## — In employment and social inclusion

The 2021 edition of the Barometer highlighted the importance of lifelong learning at all ages. The good practices shared and the resulting recommendations were the basis for AGE policy work on employment and participation at older age in 2022.

Ahead of the adoption of the EU Council of Ministers' recommendation on Individual Learning Accounts, we [drew attention](#) on the risks of reinforcing the exclusion of older people from European policies on lifelong learning and education. The European Commission proposal on the subject indeed helped to encourage a lifelong learning culture but still included some ageist rusticities.

### AGE position

We published a [Policy Statement](#) calling for lifelong learning at all ages. We reminded EU's commitment to the 1<sup>st</sup> pillar of the European Pillar of Social rights and the EU target of 60% of all adults taking part in training every year by 2030. In this Policy Statement, we called for a specific mention of older workers, emphasising the need for training entitlements and targeted communication to prevent professional exclusion and tackle unemployment at older age. We reminded the need to lift the age limit which is discriminatory and goes against the right to education. Finally, we asked for the recommendation to embrace the diversity of the European population and ensure accessible, adapted, adequate learning opportunities for all.

This policy statement was shared with the relevant units in DG EMPL at Commission level and the Permanent Representations, and via social networks. Some of our calls were adopted in the Council Recommendation and we received several responses from sections of the European Commission, including a letter from the Joost Korte, the Director-General of DG EMPL at the European Commission, inviting us to support the implementation of the Recommendations in the coming years.

In the coming years, the implementation of the Council Recommendation will be monitored through the European Semester reports and assessed after 5 years in a report prepared by the European Commission.

### Addressing barriers in digital education

Pursuing our goal of making lifelong learning accessible at all ages, we responded to two calls for evidence on [digital education](#) and [digital skills](#). In our contributions we reminded again the importance of meeting the need of all citizens in their diversity and of paying special attention to the need of older people, who are often forgotten and stigmatized in the field of digitalisation. We reiterated the urgency of addressing the digital divide and of adopting an intersectional approach so that learning new digital skills benefits not only older people but also their relatives, carers and society as a whole.



## Improving financial and digital literacy in old age

In an increasing digitally connected world, it is of outmost importance to ensure people can effectively participate in the digital environments and reap the benefits of their development. Yet, older people are very often excluded, lacking the necessary digital skills. To cope with this issue and with the challenges older people face in dealing with online shopping, online banking and in accessing the online services of the public administration, the [FAITH](#) project developed peer-to-peer trainings

offering practical tools to improve both the financial and digital literacies of older people. We developed a Good Practice Matrix summarising good practices around Europe on the themes and provided visibility to the project's resources in a final event in Brussels on 7 December.

As part of the [DIGITOL](#) project, generations united combatting fake news, shared its results on digital and media literacy and participation of older people during the final conference of the project with policy makers and a general audience.

## — In fighting poverty

2022 saw not only the return of war to the European soil, but also the return of inflation. Picking up already before the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the inflation accelerated as Russia weaponised its energy supplies and EU members rushed to diversify energy sources.

## Measuring the impact of inflation on older people

AGE surveyed its members during the summer on the impact of high inflation on older persons, and the adequacy of governments' measures to mitigate it.

[Our report 'Keeping the energy'](#) showed that the specific needs of older persons were often not considered and several AGE members had to actively push for including older persons and other groups in measures to support purchasing power.

## Ensuring adequate income in old age

We further enabled the discussion about the adequacy of pensions during European Retirement Week in November, where we co-organised a [workshop together with Better Finance](#), the organisation representing

individual investors, about pension adequacy, inflation and financial repression.

In this context, the importance of social protection became abundantly clear. This is why we welcomed the European Commission's initiative to work on a Council recommendation on minimum income to ensure that people can age without falling into poverty traps and its scarring effects in older age. [AGE's contribution insisted that pensions should also be included](#) in the scope of minimum incomes, that adequate minimum incomes need to protect from poverty and social inclusion and be sufficient to enable a life in dignity. We also worked on this topic within the networks AGE is member of, namely the Social Platform and the [European Anti-Poverty Network](#). As a result, the [Council recommendation adopted in December](#) (formally in January 2023) takes into account many of these concerns, although it falls short of providing a binding framework for adequate

incomes and regular, transparent adjustments to the development of living costs.

## — In promoting age-friendly living environments

### Adequate and accessible housing

Older persons often face challenges in accessing adequate housing. We collected our members' observations in our [contribution on adequate housing](#) submitted to the UN Independent Expert on the Rights of Older Persons. We outlined ageism as a major obstacle translating into different forms and leading to situations in which owners choose younger tenants over older and mortgages are less accessible in older age. Accessibility, especially in case of developing disabilities or care needs, pressure of gentrification and reduction of essential services in the local community were also key concerns.

### Age-friendly neighbourhoods

Due to demographic change and individualisation in our society more and more older people are living alone or in nursing homes, often without any relatives or with relatives who live far away. But older people benefit from local non-family networks with friends and neighbours, as everyone else and if not even more during old age. Sociability and a sense of belonging contribute to the quality of life. This is notably what the [Dreamlike Neighbourhood](#) project worked: by facilitating neighbourhood groups, where older people met regularly and supported each other in (re-) detecting and bringing in their talents, in fulfilling their dreams, and in finding ways to actively contribute to their communities, the

project boosted the sense of belonging of older citizens in their cities. We supported this process and gave it visibility at European and International level, bringing it to the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing, the ASEM Asia-Europe Meeting 2022 and the AGAC 2022 (the ASEM Global Ageing Center, International Hub for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons).

### Inclusive age-friendly environment policies and products

As part of the project [Urbanage](#), aimed at making decision-making for age-friendly environments more inclusive, we [released guidelines](#) to foster older persons engagement in the urban planning decisions-making process in their cities. These guidelines are meant to be used by municipalities and policy makers to include older citizens in decision making, with a special focus on digital engagement and inclusion.

In the context of [Pharaon](#), AGE supported the work on standardization related to ageing (e.g. promoting wellbeing in local communities and organisations; accessibility and usability of home-based healthcare products; good practices for user consent) and continued to promote non-ageist communication and dissemination activities. Pharaon aimed at developing integrated, customizable and interoperable digital platforms to support active and healthy ageing.

# Raising the voice of older people experiencing multiple discrimination

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In 2022, we worked on better including an intersectional approach in our work, and highlighted multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that older people can face.

## — Multiple discriminations in old age

With the goal of raising awareness on the multiple discriminations faced by older people, the [Smart Against Ageism - SAA](#) project showcases experiences of ageism in the workplace, in the health and care sector and in built environments. As a partner of this project,

we have contributed to its resources: the compendium of experiences of age discrimination in Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal and Germany and strategies to cope with them; the online game against ageism and the policy recommendations.

Throughout the year, we also worked more specifically the issues of:

## — Gender

Older women face inequalities to the intersection between ageism and sexism and disadvantages accumulated during their life course. In 2022, we attended two meetings with the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Coalition to end violence against women and girls. Within this Coalition, we discussed recent political developments, notably regarding the [Istanbul](#)

[Convention](#) and how its ratification by the European Union would help to protect the rights of older women. To celebrate the [International Day of Older Persons](#) on 1 October 2022, we [highlighted](#) the key roles of older women in long-term care and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## — Disability

We discussed the intersection between ageism and ableism that older persons with disabilities face in the EU in a [bilateral meeting](#) with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In November 2022, we organised a joint webinar with the European Disability Forum (EDF) and our members regarding the revision of the EU regulatory framework on

passengers' rights. During this closed event, our members and members of EDF shared common issues in relation to the enforcement of their rights as passengers, as well as in terms of accessibility. This online discussion informed our contribution to the European Commission that we submitted in December. We also worked on the EU Initiative on the cross-border protection



of vulnerable adults and submitted two [contributions](#), in which we showed how the Hague Convention rather leads to human rights

## — LGBTI

In February 2022, we organised a mutual training with ILGA-Europe on older LGBTI persons. Following this mutual training, we drafted a joint policy paper with ILGA-Europe, analysing the data from the [Fundamental Rights Agency LGBTI Survey II](#). The aim of this survey is to raise awareness on the diversity of LGBTI people among older people and how structural and cumulated disadvantages over the life-course create further inequalities, notably for trans and intersex people and LGBTI people from an ethnic minority background. The final paper will be published at the beginning of

## — Racism and hate speech

Populist and racist positions have gained strength across Europe spreading prejudice and discrimination. To counteract this trend, we joined forces with 6 partners in 6 European countries to develop an online game and policy recommendations against racism and hate speech. With the funding of the Erasmus+ programme, such cooperation took the form of a European project called [Smart for Democracy](#)

violations and goes against the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2023. On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia on 17 May we [shed light](#) on the multiple and intersecting forms of discriminations older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people face.

Finally, we participated in the European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO Network) [Policy Conference](#), where we presented our vision of rights-based long-term care in the context of the EU Care Strategy, focusing on older Roma.

[and Diversity – SDD](#). This project makes cases of discrimination visible and tangible and promotes a critical examination of discriminatory behaviors and structures. The online game and the policy recommendations are available on the project's website and will be further presented during a final event in Brussels on 14 June 2023.

# Making our voice stronger

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## — Improving the ownership and capacity of AGE members

In 2022 we sought to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of our members to support our work in capturing the full potential of older people and enhancing their equality and dignity. To do so, we organized a series of training sessions on applying the principle of non-

discrimination and a rights-based approach to ageing. More information is provided in the previous chapters on age equality in the EU and our advocacy for a UN Convention on older people's rights.

## — Developing AGE long-term sustainability and representativeness

We developed a series of metrics and indicators to measure the engagement of our members and see where and how this engagement can be improved.

In 2022, AGE members were increasingly engaged in our activities overall. We saw an

increased participation in internal meetings (compared to the pre-pandemic times), more frequent consultation of internal communication materials, as well as an increased number of contributions to our calls for input to co-produce our positions and advocacy materials.

## — Developing partnership and financial sustainability

In 2022, we explored potential new sources of funding, such as external donations. Part of this work was to improve the visibility of our advocacy with existing and new partners and allies.

We strengthened cooperation with institutional partners, continuing for the second year running our partnership with the district of Biscay, in Spain, to publish a report on 'Bay of Biscay, Bay of Care - Developing the Long-Term Care Empowerment Model'<sup>3</sup>, and to co-organise dissemination activities at EU level (see our chapter on care). Among the new institutional

partners, we initiated cooperation with the World Bank, co-organising an event on '*Exploring opportunities in the ageing agenda in Europe*' (see our chapter on care).

In the private sector, we continued our work with Essity Hygiene and Health AB to raise awareness of incontinence and the challenges it poses to the ageing population.

Efforts were also made to identify opportunities in the philanthropic sector. Some foundations were approached, and others were identified for potential future collaboration.



## ABOUT OUR NETWORK

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# Our membership and governance

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## — Executive Committee

AGE Executive Committee (ExCo) is composed of the President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary. It meets four times a year and provides strategic guidance on advocacy work and ensures the smooth running of the organization in accordance with the statutes and internal rules.

### Members:

- Ebbe Johansen, President
- Anthony De Giovanni, Vice President
- Regine Matthijsen, Vice President
- Jose-Luis Tejedor, Vice President
- Christina Rogestam, Vice President
- Elena Weber, Secretary
- Jean-Michel Hôte, Treasurer

## — Administrative Council

AGE Administrative Council is composed of national representative(s) elected by AGE Full member organisations in their country. It meets twice a year and is responsible for the overall running of the organisation and the implementation of work programmes.

President: Ebbe Johansen

### Members:

#### Full Members

##### Countries

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Austria: Harald Glatz                  | • Greece: Ranga Myrto                   |
| • Belgium: Maddie Geerts                 | • Hungary: Imre Semsei                  |
| • Bulgaria: Evelina Dorzhinova           | • Ireland: Ciaran McKinney              |
| • Croatia: Ines Vrbanić                  | • Italy: Daniela Zilli / Giorgio Grenzi |
| • Cyprus: Maria Zachariou Dodou          | • Malta: Gaetan Naudi                   |
| • Czech Republic: Jaroslav Lorman        | • Netherlands: Christine Nanlohy        |
| • Denmark: John Kirstein                 | • Norway: Jan Davidsen                  |
| • Estonia: Ergma Andres                  | • Poland: Piotr Nakonieczny             |
| • Finland: Filip Hamro-Drotz             | • Portugal: Anabela Paixão              |
| • France: Bernard Bazot/                 | • Romania: Giorgică Bădăraș             |
| • Germany: Ina Voelcker / Barbara Kahler | • Slovakia: Gáliková Ľubica             |

- Slovenia: Jožica Puhar
- Spain: Angel Yaguë Criado / José Luis Tejedor
- Sweden: Martin Engman
- Switzerland: Roland Grunder

#### European Federations

- Alain Koskas (FIAPA)

### **Substitute Members**

#### Countries

- Austria: Hilde Hawlicek
- Belgium:
- Bulgaria:
- Croatia:
- Cyprus: Alexis Michaelides
- Czech Republic: Jiri Hrabec
- Denmark: Ebbe Johanssen
- Estonia:
- Finland: Raimo Ikonen
- France: Claude Waret / Jean-Michel Hôte
- Germany: Heidrun Mollenkopf  
Sebastian Wegner
- Greece: Maria Asteriou
- Hungary: Laszlo Patyan
- Ireland: Maureen Kavanagh
- Italy: Fabio Volponi / Giuseppe Zaffarano
- Malta: Anthony Degiovanni
- Netherlands: Regine Matthijsen

- Ghislaine van Halewyn (ESU)
- Kalivi Kivisto (NOPO)
- Joseph Bertrand (ESO)

#### European Organisations

- Elena Weber (EAN)
- Elizabeth Sclater (OWN Europe)

- Norway: Arne Halaas
- Poland: Katarzyna Otachel
- Portugal: Maria João Azavedo
- Romania: Gheorghe Chioaru
- Slovakia: Iveta Cereyova
- Slovenia:
- Spain: Maria Sacramento Pinazo-Hernandis / Jordi Romero
- Sweden: Christina Rogestam
- Switzerland:

#### European Federations

- Camille Gautard (FIAPA)
- Leif Hallberg (ESU)
- Asa Lindestam (NOPO)
- Frieda Ardies (ESO)

#### European Organisations

- Pascal Champvert (EAN)
- Maria Petkova (OWN EUROPE)

## — Secretariat

Based in Brussels, AGE Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day management of the association, the implementation of work programmes and for liaising with the EU institutions.

### Staff members in 2022:

#### Secretary General

- Maciej Kucharczyk

#### Operations Team

- Hanan Soussi - Office Manager
- Nathalie De Craecker - Administrative Assistant
- Anne Melard - Information & Communication Officer
- Estelle Huchet - Memberships and Partnership Coordinator

#### Policy Team

- Julia Wadoux - Policy Manager on Healthy Ageing and Accessibility
- Nena Georgantzi - Human Rights Manager
- Apolline Parel - Human Rights Officer
- Philippe Seidel - Policy Manager on Social Protection and European Parliament
- Sarah Loriato - Policy Officer on Employment and Participation and EP Liaison Officer

#### Project Team

- Ilenia Gheno - Project Manager
- Nhu Tram - Project Officer
- Vera Hoermann - Project Officer
- Marine Luc - Project Officer

## — AGE Members in 2022

### **Austria:**

Pensionisten Verband

### **Belgium:**

CD&V-senioren

Entr'Ages asbl

Les Aînés du CDH (associate member)

OKRA, trefpunt 55+

Respect Seniors

Vlaamse Ouderenraad vzw

Vrouwenraad BE (associate member)

### **Bulgaria:**

Bulgarian Red Cross

### **Croatia:**

Foundation Zajednicki put

The association of social workers Zadar

The National Pensioners' Convention of Croatia (NPCC)

### **Cyprus:**

Pancyprian Welfare of the Elderly

PA.SY.D.Y. Pensioners Union

Cyprus Third Age Observatory

### **Czech Republic:**

Elpida

Zivot90

### **Denmark:**

DaneAge/Aeldresagen

### **Estonia:**

The Estonian Association of Pensioners' Societies

### **Finland:**

The Association of Swedish-Speaking Pensioners in Finland

The Finnish Pensioners' Federation

### **France:**

Action de Coordination de Lieux et d'Accueil aux Personnes Âgées (ACLAP)

Alim50plus

Association des Retraités d'Air France

Confédération Française des Retraités

Ecole des Grands-Parents Européens (EGPE)



Fédération des particuliers employeurs de France  
Fédération Nationale des Associations de Retraités  
Fondation I2ML  
Génération Mouvement - Fédération nationale  
Information Défense Action Retraite (IDAR)  
Old Up  
Union des Anciens du Groupe BP  
Union Française des Retraités  
Union Nationale des Retraités (UNAR-CFTC)  
Union Nationale Interprofessionnelle des Retraités U.N.I.R. CFE/CGC

**Germany:**

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen (BAGSO)  
Sozialverband VdK Deutschland E.V. (observer member)  
HelpAge Germany (Associate members)

**Greece:**

People Behind  
Hellas 50+  
Antama

**Hungary:**

Gerontology Science Coordination Center

**Ireland:**

Active Retirement Ireland  
Age & Opportunity

**Italy:**

50 & più  
Anpecomit - Associazione Nazionale fra Pensionati ed Esodati della Banca Commerciale Italiana  
Anziani e non solo soc. Coop (observer member)  
Associazione Lavoro Over 40  
Associazione Nazionale Anziani e Pensionati (ANAP)  
Associazione Nazionale Centri Sociali, Comitati Anziani e Orti (ANCESCAO)  
Associazione Nazionale Pensionati (CIA)  
ATDAL Over 40  
CNA Pensionati  
Federazione Nazionale Sindacale delle Associazioni dei Pensionati del credito (FAP Credito)  
Federpensionati Coldiretti  
Over 50 Della Confeuro  
S.a.pens. Sindacato Autonomo Pensionati  
Sindacato Nazionale Pensionati della Confagricoltura (ANPA)  
SOLIMAI - società cooperativa sociale a r.l. (observer member)

UNITRE University of Third Age  
Uscire Insieme Onlus

**Latvia :**

Latvian Pensioners' Federation

**Malta:**

Grand Parents Malta  
National Association of Pensioners  
National Council for The Elderly

**Netherlands:**

Nederlandse Vereniging van Organisaties van Gepensioneerden (NVOG)  
Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk - Nederland  
Stichting Jan Nagel 50+

**Norway:**

The Norwegian Pensioners' Association, Pensjonistforbundet

**Poland:**

Alzheimer Polska  
Seniors BONUM VITAE

**Portugal:**

APRE - Associação de Aposentados Pensionistas e Reformados  
CASO50+ - Centro de Atendimento e Serviços 050+

**Romania:**

Asociatia Humana Egyesület  
National Federation Omenia/Federatia Nationala Omenia  
Habilitas

**Serbia:**

Serbian Red Cross (accession member)

**Slovakia:**

Forum Pre Pomoc Starsim (Forum for Help to Age, National Network)

**Slovenia:**

Mestna zveza upokojencev Ljubljana (MZU)  
ZDUS – Zveza drustev upokojencev Slovenije

**Spain:**

Asociación de Profesores Universitarios Jubilados (ASPUR)  
Catalonian Federation of Elder Associations (FATEC)  
Confederación Española De Organizaciones De Mayores (CEOMA)  
Federacion d'Organitzacions Catalanes de Gent Gran, Dones i Família (FOCAGG)  
Federación Española de Asociaciones Nagusilan

Federacion Territorial de Asociaciones provinciales de pensionistas y jubilados de alava, Guipuzcoa y Vizcaya (FEDERPEN)

Fundacion 26 de Diciembre

Fundación Pilares para la Autonomía Personal

Grupo Servicios Sociales Integrados (observer member)

Plataforma de Mayores y Pensionistas (PMP)

Spanish Red Cross

Union Democratica de Pensionistas (UDP)

**Sweden:**

SPF Seniorerna

**Switzerland:**

Conseil Suisse des Aînés

**Turkey:**

Türkiye Emekliler Derneği (Turkey Retired Persons Organisation) – TIED (observer member)

65+ Elder Rights Association (observer member)

**United Kingdom:**

British Society of Gerontology

Civil Service Pensioners Alliance

International Longevity Centre UK (ILC-UK) (observer member)

Wise Age

**European Federations:**

European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI)

European Senior Citizens Union – ESU

European Senior Organisation – ESO

FIAPA Europe (Fédération Internationale des Associations de Personnes Agées)

NOPO - Nordic Older People's Organisation

**European Organisations:**

European Ageing Network

Groupement Européen de Retraités des Caisses d'Épargne, Banques et Institutions Similaires

Older Women's Network - Europe

Seniors of the European Public Service

## — External membership

AGE is a member of...



The [Platform of European Social NGOs](#) (Social Platform) is the alliance of representative European federations and networks of non-governmental organisations active in the social sector at European level.

AGE's role in Social Platform is to voice older citizens' concerns and defend their rights within this EU social network.



The [European Anti-poverty Network](#) (EAPN), is an independent network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Member States of the European Union. AGE aims to bring the older people's perspective in EAPN's work and help develop solutions to prevent and address poverty and social exclusion in old age.



The [European Public Health Alliance](#) (EPHA) represents organisations active in the public health sector (patients organisation, health professional, national or European association working on specific public health thematic, etc.). EPHA aims to promote and protect the health interests of all people living in Europe and to strengthen the dialogue between the European institutions, citizens and NGOs in support of healthy public policies. AGE joined EPHA in 2008 and has since then been closely cooperating on health issues of interest to older people.



# Our communication tools

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**Website:** [www.age-platform.eu](http://www.age-platform.eu)

Around **300** web-articles posted on AGE website

About **240,000** page views – **110,545** visitors

**Newsletter CoverAGE:**

[www.age-platform.eu/newsletter-coverage](http://www.age-platform.eu/newsletter-coverage)

**11** editions + **3262** subscribers

**23 Newsflashes** to AGE members

**6 Press releases**

**Social Media:**



[@AGE\\_PlatformEU](https://twitter.com/AGE_PlatformEU)

**7.778** followers - **284** tweets



[@ageplatformeurope](https://www.facebook.com/ageplatformeurope)

**2.640** followers - **80** posts



[AGE Platform Europe](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AGE-Platform-Europe)

**2.249** followers - **36** publications

**Blogs**

#AgeingEqual campaign: <https://ageing-equal.org>

European Parliament news: <https://towardsanagefriendlyep.com>

about **1.408** views, **777** visits

## Our funding

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AGE's policy activities are co-financed by membership fees and donations (20%) and by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme of the European Union (DG Justice) (80%). In 2022 we also received donations from Essity and the Region of Biscay's to support our work on long term care, and from the World Bank to organize a joint event.

AGE continued its work on European Research Projects, besides being involved in new proposals. In 2022 we were a partner in 15 projects covering the topics of ageism, digital technologies, health and care, age-friendly environments: EuroAgeism, Digitol, InAdvance, Pharaon, Shapes, ValueCare, Dreamlike Neighbourhood, E-Vita, Faith, Urbanage, Smart for Democracy and Diversity, Smart against Ageism, Covid Resilience, EU Navigate and Agisme dans le Gare. AGE participation in EU research projects is 100% covered by EU funding (mainly the European Horizon 2020 Programme).

Visit our website for more information on the projects we are involved in: <https://www.age-platform.eu/projects-by-topic/all-projects>



## AGE in brief

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of organisations *of* and *for* people aged 50+ which aims to voice and promote the interests of the increasing number of senior citizens in the European Union and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most.

AGE is involved in a range of policy and information activities to put older people's issues on the EU agenda and to support networking among older people's groups. Our guiding principles hold that a change of attitudes is needed to achieve a society for all ages and that there is a need to promote solidarity between generations in a way that recognizes older people's contributions to society.

## Join us!

By joining our network, you will express your support and be able to:



Interested in becoming a member of AGE? Visit our website:

[www.age-platform.eu/membership](http://www.age-platform.eu/membership)



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 [AGE Platform Europe](https://www.linkedin.com/company/age-platform-europe)



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