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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2019

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# FOREWORDS

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## Ebbe Johansen, President

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At the election for a new EU parliament, people of Europe made their voices heard in record numbers. There was the highest turnout of votes in the last 20 years. Ursula von der Leyen became the new President of the European Commission and got her 8 vice presidents and the 18 commissioners approved by 1. December 2019. Among them we were pleased to see vice president Dubravka Šuica nominated for Demography and Democracy with as part of her mission the launch of a Green Paper on ageing.

Also, a new portfolio within the European Commission was created with the nomination of Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality. Her mission letter states that she should ensure equality in all its senses, irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or religious belief. AGE will continue to work closely with the European Parliament and the new Commission on our strategic objectives.

We also got a new President of the European Council, which comprises the heads of states or governments of the EU member states. Former Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel has replaced Donald Tusk.

In the UK an election gave majority to a new government with the focus on “Get Brexit done”. This means that the UK will exit the EU by 31. January 2020. We hope new cooperations will be established, but for AGE and our UK members it will not be the same, and we have to adapt.

AGE Platform Europe is a trusted partner in many EU projects. In 2019 we were involved in 15 projects either as participants, experts or as project leader. The projects all support quality of life for older persons, with a focus on health: care, nutrition, frailty and active aging.

Many projects also cover the digitalisation in all of our society both in health care and environment.

Together with our members we also started working on the burning issue of climate change and how to make it socially sustainable and fair to all Europeans.



## Anne-Sophie Parent, Secretary General

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As expected, 2019 was a transition year in many senses and confirmed to be a very busy year for AGE and our members.

We are pleased that our campaign around the European Parliament elections succeeded in mobilising our members at national level and helped them establish contacts with the many new MEPs. We are also proud of the outcome of our lobby work: our members' main priorities - equality and non-discrimination, demographic change and social justice - are now high on the agenda of the new Commission.

With regards to the Council, in 2019 we contributed input to the Croatian EU Presidency which started on 1st January 2020 and will organise a series of conferences on demographic issues and healthy ageing. We also developed a strong partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and started preparing a joint event around AGE GA 2020 with our German member BAGSO, with the support of the German EU Presidency which will run in the 2nd half of 2020.

In the United Nations Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), although progress may seem slow, 2019 brought some hope: an outcome document will be drafted with recommendations to be discussed at the next OEWG meeting. Such document should help keep track of discussions and areas where an agreement could be reached, this is thus a good step forward! Thanks to AGE

capacity training more members have contributed to the OEWG debates and a few more applied to get accredited to the UN. Their participation should help raise awareness of older persons' concerns in the debate and ultimately influence the EU position in the OEWGA.

To get a better view of AGE policy and project work in 2019, I encourage you to read our Annual Report fully. I am sure you will discover things you did not know and might interest you for your own work.

Finally, 2019 was also the year where the preparation for the transition to a new Secretary General started. The 2019 General Assembly and annual conference were my last after almost 18 years as head of the Secretariat. I will leave AGE next June and take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and friendship. I wish also to thank wholeheartedly my colleagues for being not only so good at what they do, but also so devoted to achieving progress on AGE key objectives. I am confident that the transition will be smooth if you continue to support them and trust them for delivering added value for older persons across the EU. Your help and commitment have always been central to AGE achievements and will continue to be very precious for the network, its members and the millions of senior citizens they represent!

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

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# The European Parliament elections 2019: an opportunity AGE did not miss!

In May 2019, European citizens were invited to elect their new representatives at the European Parliament: a major occasion to bring the European Union closer to its citizens - of all ages! - and to support older persons' political involvement.

Under the motto 'The Europe we want is for all ages', AGE members [from Ljubljana to Dublin and Valletta to Helsinki](#), met with candidates, organised debates, published opinions... to call on the European Parliament candidates to build a Europe of equality, inclusiveness and solidarity for all generations, in alignment with our [Manifesto](#).

AGE secretariat supported members, built an official partnership with the European Parliament's ['This Time, I'm](#)

[Voting'](#) campaign and [spread the messages of AGE manifesto](#) among the key players at EU level.

Older persons' mobilisation did not stop after the elections though. Taking account of the results, AGE members

established contact and organised meetings with the freshly elected Members of the European Parliament with the intention to introduce AGE and older adults as constructive partners for the 2019-2024 mandate.

A [reception](#) organised by AGE during the October Administrative Council meeting to introduce AGE members to their

representatives was well attended by a large number of MEPs.

The intense campaign for the re-establishment of a European Parliament Intergroup on Demographic Change and Solidarity Between Generation received positive feedback from a wide political spectrum. The Intergroup was finally not re-established, but the supportive MEPs will form a new Interest group on intergenerational solidarity and social justice to ensure the channel for exchanges with older Europeans is maintained.



*"It is our collective responsibility to choose our future!"*



# EU Commission ready to address demographic change – AGE has been heard

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AGE's determination to bring attention to EU demographic challenge and address it in EU policy agenda paid off in 2019. Firstly, our General Assembly's call for a new intergenerational contract to create a Europe that is socially just and sustainable for all ages resonated positively among EU new policy makers. Building on this dynamic, we called for an EU strategy on demographic change under supervision of a dedicated Commissioner. Our calls were ultimately heard at the highest EU policy level with the nomination by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, for the first time

ever, of a [Vice President in charge of Democracy and Demography](#). Vice President Dubravka Šuica's portfolio is dedicated to coordinate EU action on ageing policies. It will focus on social protection systems and check whether they

adequately meet the needs of an ageing population. The explicit reference to the demographic change, its potential and challenges is a tangible success of AGE incessant advocacy work. Over the last years we have been working towards a comprehensive policy response to Europe's ageing population. We insisted that policy response should encompass the notions of solidarity and cooperation between generations and make sure that everyone is

empowered to participate in society and enjoy life in the respect of their rights. AGE vision of an inclusive and equal society has eventually impacted EU agenda and will be now translated into policy actions, such as the announced EU Green Paper on Ageing to be issued by end 2020.

Moreover, pursuing our focus on human rights in old age, AGE has successfully engaged in cooperation with the new Commissioner on Equality, Helena Dalli. This should help us bring a new dynamic to discussions later in 2020 on the draft horizontal equality directive as part of EU actions on non-discrimination.

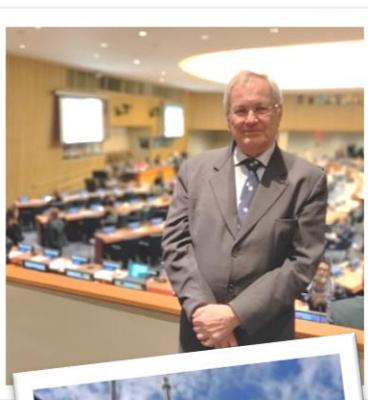
All these achievements were possible thanks to our members' active engagement in national campaigns for the European elections. They are equally the fruit of AGE intensified [advocacy efforts](#) in Brussels between the moment when EU member states nominated Ursula von der Leyen as Commission President, and later when the European Parliament approved her new College of Commissioners. All in all, 2019 [paved a way](#) to more initiatives and coherence between EU actions in response to Europe's demographic change with an aim of ensuring equality, social justice and prosperity for younger and older generations.



# Growing movement for equal rights in older age

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‘Our human rights do not diminish with age’ remained the motto of our work against ageism and age inequalities at EU and UN levels.



At the United Nations in April, AGE highlighted the gaps that still exist for older adults to access social security and education on a par with other age groups. Again in 2020, AGE brought the voice of older persons to the [UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing](#), along with civil society organisations from all over the world. The participation of national and local organisations is also increasing: two additional members of AGE were accredited in 2019 reaching a total of 17 – an important signal for the UN Members States whose commitment is sometimes lacking!

At grassroots level, the anti-ageism movement took a new turn this year: around 1<sup>st</sup> October, the [International Day of Older Persons](#), self-advocates took the floor to tell their own stories of later life. By sharing their personal experiences of older age, older campaigners started to shape a new narrative and break

down the stereotypes that hinders older adults to participate in society. Fifty years after the term ageism was first coined in 1969, the phenomenon is gaining recognition as a harmful phenomenon preventing individuals to fully enjoy their rights.

AGE also partnered with Equinet in order to build the capacity of equality bodies and older persons’ organisations to detect, prevent and address ageism and age discrimination. Thanks to our [joint seminar](#), NGOs and equality bodies have built bridges to commonly advocate for human rights and to strengthen the fight against ageism at national level.

In collaboration with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, AGE also organized a [training session](#) about how NGOs can use UN treaties to improve the situation of older people in their countries and hold their governments accountable for equally protecting human rights in older age.

Thanks to all these initiatives old age advocates are increasing in numbers and skills forming a stronger movement to fight ageism and protect human rights at all ages.

*“Population’s ageing is no longer only a matter for us, old people. We have to take advantage of the potential of the intergenerational cooperation with the young for the benefit of all social groups.”*

Janez Sušnik, Slovenia

# AGE Barometer sheds light on the situation of older persons in the EU

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In 2019 we [published the first edition of the AGE Barometer](#) aimed to assess on a yearly basis the socio-economic situation of older people across the EU and how this situation 2019 summarises the situation that older people face in the fields of gender equality, support to find work, age-friendly workplaces, work-life balance,

adequate income and poverty, social exclusion and isolation. It is based on EU statistics and data at national level provided by AGE members.

The topics of the AGE Barometer are directly linked to EU and international

processes, namely the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Eleven member states are covered by the 2019 edition, reflecting the large number of responses received from AGE members to the questionnaire.

Here are some of the highlights that stood out from the report:

- Older women are facing the consequences of life-long disadvantages, translated into high gender pension gaps and higher rates of poverty and social exclusion for women aged over 75
- Pressure on working carers increased over the last five years
- Old-age poverty is increasing again after a period of relative stability
- While age discrimination is formally forbidden on the labour market, hidden discrimination and stereotypes persist
- There are few and mainly voluntary initiatives to make workplaces more sustainable to workers' mental and physical health and better adapted to an ageing workforce
- Pension reforms have stabilised the financial sustainability of pension systems, but severe challenges to adequacy remain.

In 2020, the Barometer will focus on the topics of health and long-term care provision, support to independent life and non-discrimination

*Although employment rates of older persons are increasing everywhere, there is still room for improvement for example to help transition from unemployment to work or support older workers with health conditions.*



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# AGE WORK IN 2019 to promote...

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## Equal rights in older age

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### ■ We won an award for our work on non-discrimination

In 2019 we received an award for our work on age discrimination granted by [Fira Gran](#), a Spanish foundation based in Barcelona.



AGE was selected by Fira Gran after consulting the local authorities of Barcelona and Catalunya, older people's organisations' and professional associations. This distinction is very important for AGE as it illustrates that the work we do at EU and international level is visible and can have a real value in a national and local context.

### ■ From the fight against ageism to the strive for age equality

It is no longer a secret that older persons are millions across Europe. What remains rather unknown though, is the active role many of them play in shaping the society of tomorrow. Among them are indefatigable volunteers, life-long activists and enthusiastic advocates of many causes. Fifty years after the term "ageism" was first coined in 1969 and following the attention raised with our 2018 #AgeingEqual campaign against ageism, AGE participated in several [events](#), answered [interviews](#) and wrote [op-ed articles](#).

In 2019, our global effort to raise awareness of ageism took a new turn. Around 1<sup>st</sup> October, the International Day of Older Persons, [the #AgeingEqual campaign](#) gave a voice to older persons who lead the change against all stereotypes. By sharing their personal experiences, older campaigners started to shape a



***“For too long, ageism has been the last socially acceptable form of discrimination: discrimination based on a conception of old age that legitimizes differences in treatment, neglect and human rights violations” Estelle Huchet***

new narrative of what older age means for them. In doing so, they contributed to breaking down the ageist misconceptions that far too often, hinders society to fully tap the potential of older persons. Alongside our advocacy work, our research study as part of the EU-funded [Euroageism](#) project on the experience of older people with age discrimination in accessing goods and services in Austria and Ireland, successfully completed its first project year. We conducted 12 interviews with experts in the field of human rights, anti-discrimination and equal treatment law as well as experts in the field of the respective national policy for the older persons. Furthermore, two focus groups with representatives of stakeholders were set up and an overview of the legal situation was compiled. The first analysis results of the expert interviews

was published in [this report of the first project year](#), distributed among the stakeholders and experts.

In sum, the initial research shows that discrimination in the traditional sense undoubtedly exists outside the employment sector, particularly in the financial services sector, and that existing legal protection instruments offer no protection here. Discrimination in the health sector is also found, even if it is, when compared to financial sector, more difficult to grasp in its structural form. Furthermore, the situation seems to substantially differ between countries in this area, as the problem appears to be more prevalent in Austria or is at least more visible there. Another field in which older people are affected by ageist dynamics, but which cannot be subsumed under the classic legal understanding of discrimination, is the transport sector, especially regarding deficits in the provision of public transport and the resulting social exclusion.

In the forthcoming year, the focus will initially be on the final analysis of the expert interviews and focus groups, before the collection of individual interviews with older people affected by age discrimination will begin in April.



## ■ Building the capacity of old age advocates

In 2019 we organized two training sessions to help civil society better advocate for older persons' human rights and fight ageism. In collaboration with Equinet, we prepared a [seminar](#)

which brought together about 50 participants from NGOs and National Equality bodies (NEBs). Its purpose was to build the capacity of NEBs and older persons' organisations to detect, prevent and address ageism and age discrimination, and promote equality for older people. After the two days, participants were more familiar with the legal

framework that can be used to fight age discrimination, the barriers older persons face to equal participation in society and how equality bodies and NGOs can work together at national and European level to strengthen the fight against ageism.

Additionally, together with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) we delivered [training for AGE members](#) on how they can use the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to improve

policies at national level and hold their governments accountable when they fail to live up to their international commitments and obligations.

## ■ Higher visibility at international level

AGE also strengthened its representation at global level. In addition to AGE, 17 of our member organisations are now accredited to the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG). Our delegation to the [10th session of the OEWG](#) in New York also increased, including 3 staff members, our President and several of our members. On the other side of the globe, our Vice-President Heidrun Mollenkopf represented AGE in a high-level international conference of the [Asia Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#), where she highlighted the importance of intergenerational solidarity in a context of ageing societies and for the purpose of ensuring equal rights for all ages.

Our work was featured in a [report](#) of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which referred to the [seminar](#)



[that we had co-organised in April 2018](#). The report draws attention to our [#AgeingEqual campaign](#) that marked the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in creating a movement to fight ageism.

#### ■ Ageing with disability

AGE continued raising visibility of the challenges faced by older persons with disabilities. In several events and replies to EU and

[UN consultations](#), we highlighted that after a certain age under national policies, individuals that develop disabilities are not considered as persons with disabilities and fall under different

*While disability is increasingly understood as a social construct, inequalities due to old age are predominantly seen as “natural” or “inevitable”. (UN Report)*

administrations and policies. Measures targeting older people who need care and assistance do not always offer the same level of support or completely exclude them through the use of age limits. These concerns have been reflected in the report of the [UN Special Rapporteur](#), who discussed the challenges faced by older persons in equally enjoying their rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Also several of our amendments to the draft report of the European Economic and Social Committee have been accepted and are now included in the adopted [report](#).

#### ■ The need for a new treaty

In 2019, AGE further advocated for a new international binding instrument that would strengthen the protection of human rights in older age. We participated actively in the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) through written and oral contributions on the topics of education and social protection, as well as on the content of the rights to autonomy, independence, long term and palliative care ([read our press release](#)).

Our input was very influential in informing the OEWG discussions from an EU perspective. Several of the points we raised were included in the documents prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). These included – among others – the EU-wide gender pension gap; the age limits in disability benefits and services that exist in several countries; and the fact that on the European Union level, competence frameworks linked to education and training policies are focusing only on skills relevant to the labour market and in many European countries life-long learning activities were explicitly designed to enhance employability and skills of older workers.

The launch of a [recent report by the OHCHR](#) that demonstrated the lack of visibility of human rights breaches against older persons under existing UN mechanisms, was for us the occasion



to illustrate that most activities undertaken by the UN and its Member States fail to address the human rights of older persons.

- **Gaps in law and evidence undermine the fight against age discrimination**

On several occasions AGE made the case for improving legal protection and strengthening the monitoring and reporting of age discrimination. Together with other equality networks, we prepared and presented a [joint paper](#) for the Working Party of

*The present gaps in EU non-discrimination legislation results in an unacceptable 'hierarchy' of protected grounds of discrimination. This situation creates second-class citizens and is contrary to the EU's commitments towards equality, as defined in European treaties and international human rights legislation. (NGO joint statement)*

the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council of the EU. In this paper we pointed out the upper age limits that are found everywhere and directly impact the ability of older EU citizens to travel in the EU and participate as full citizens: e.g. of a job seeker to apply for work, an expert to participate in

public debates, a learner to participate in adult training or a volunteer to be involved in activities in another EU member state. In some EU countries it is impossible to purchase travel insurance for someone above a certain age. Upper age limits continue to be widely spread in some countries in car rentals

and access to financial services. We therefore called on the new European Commission to expand the legal protection against discrimination on the ground of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

In our response to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) consultation about their 2021 work programme we highlighted the current evidence gap with regard to age discrimination and human rights abuses experienced by older



persons. Unlike for other grounds of discrimination and groups in vulnerable situations, FRA did not undertake a specific study on this group, while existing work only marginally addresses older persons. AGE called on the FRA to undertake a dedicated project because we consider that mapping the legal and practical barriers faced by older persons and undertaking fieldwork data collection is essential since this group is still today under-researched.

Additionally, we contributed to a [publication](#) by SDG Watch Europe regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its Goal 10 on reducing inequalities. In our paper we analysed some of the challenges in implementing the SDGs from an old age perspective. One of the key issues is the lack of prohibition of age discrimination under international law. As there is currently no explicit prohibition of age discrimination under international standards, States do not have an obligation

to report on harassment or discrimination on the basis of age. Moreover, national and comparative surveys have both age limits and serious gaps in relation to ageing, which limit the possibility of counting in and including older people. These are all issues that undermine the positive impact of the SDGs implementation on older persons.

#### ■ Risks and opportunities of new technologies

In reply to a [UN consultation](#), we highlighted both the benefits of new technologies for older people's rights to health, autonomy, independence and to ensure their full participation in society. Yet, we also pointed out key challenges, in terms of safety, autonomy, privacy and equal treatment among others. We insisted that without a clear prohibition of age discrimination and an explicit obligation for states to ensure access to support in old age, human rights law remains deficient. As a result, when they age, people are more likely to be excluded from the benefits of technology or to suffer their negative implications because human rights norms have treated older people's rights

as less serious than the rights of other groups. Against this lack of legal clarity and the increasing use of technologies in the care of older persons it is crucial to discuss their human



rights implications and to set standards in order to ensure the equal enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

#### ■ The importance of the Charter of Fundamental Rights

In 2019 we responded to an online survey regarding the awareness and use of the Charter of Fundamental Rights Charter by Civil Society organisations. In our response we demonstrated the increased role that the Charter plays in our work, but also the lack of visibility and use by organisations at national level. Our input has been used in a [paper](#) prepared by the Fundamental Rights Agency in view of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter.

#### ■ Gender Equality

In 2019 we called on the new European Commission to adopt an ambitious gender equality strategy, focusing on older women's specific challenges in terms of economic independence, access to health, and abuse. Additionally in a [joint statement](#) with other NGOS we drew the attention of the UN to the fact that that age in combination with discrimination on the basis of sex create unique barriers for older women, for example in terms of access to work, social security and financial services, among others.



## Quality long-term care & fight against elder abuse

- [Calling for a true right to long-term care and support in Europe](#)

2019 was a busy year in the area of long-term care and support. We culminated our efforts of previous years to build a human rights approach in our work on care. We delivered our definition of what enjoying a right to long-term care means and what EU Member States should do about it, in the framework of the [10<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing](#).

This work, carried out together with AGE members, in particular our task force on Dignified Ageing, was the basis for other activities in the field of care. For instance [in cooperation with UNICARE Europa unions of care workers](#), we explored the link between working conditions in care and the dignity of older

people in need of care services. Together with providers of services for persons with disabilities we further further looked at the [intersection between disability and ageing](#). And as a partner in new research programmes we sought to improve care delivery for older persons, e.g. in the [EU-funded project TRANS-SENIOR](#), aimed at improving or avoiding



*“Working conditions are key and without good working conditions there is no good quality care; but good working conditions alone do not guarantee good services”*

trans <  
senior >

transitions between care services

Framing long-term care and support as a right, as not as charity, was also key in ensuring AGE's participation in a series of

workshops organised by the European Commission between January and June. The objective of those workshops was to address the diversity of challenges facing long-term care and

explore ways to implement such a right as proclaimed by the European Pillar of Social Rights. We seized those occasions to mention the [SUSTAIN roadmap](#) that gathers all necessary ingredients useful for the implementation of integrated care, a crucial element of quality and efficient long-term care.



Building on that momentum, we partnered with Eurocarers and COFACE Families Europe to hold a workshop on long-term care in the framework of the Building Social Europe conference of the Social Platform. The event delivered one key fact: [the EU and its states need to give the highest priority to long-term care if they aim to preserve their legitimacy](#).

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: the key role of social services

In 2019 we further raised awareness of elder abuse and how to prevent it in the context of care with a [workshop at the European Social Services Conference](#) in Milan, Italy. On that



occasion we stressed the deeply rooted ageism that prevails in our societies and prevents us from recognising elder abuse as a violation of human rights.

We also built on the [European Quality Framework for long-term](#)

[care services and its training package](#). Participants, local and regional policymakers and managers of social services across Europe, were invited to reflect on situation of abuse in their services and the actions that can help address them.

Together with workers and policymakers, service managers are key stakeholders that, building on this workshop, we will seek to systematically include in our conversations around preventing and fighting elder abuse and improving the quality of services.

- Palliative care is about living

In 2019 some momentum was built around access of older persons to palliative care. In January, we organised [the final event of PACE](#), an EU project on palliative care, and we presented [recommendations for policymakers](#) that include input from AGE members. These recommendations make the case for a better access to palliative care for older people. They provide policy orientations that are specific to long-term care facilities and more

*"An ageist society is an abusive society. If we continue to think that older people are inevitably dependent, frail, precarious and excluded, we will contribute to elder abuse, rather than addressing it."*



general recommendations, including the need to raise awareness and fight stigma. This work was key to build our contribution on a right to palliative care in the frame of the [10<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing](#). It also allowed us to get involved in a new EU project, [InAdvance](#), starting in 2019, and deepen our understanding of palliative care and continue our efforts to include older persons in palliative care research and policymaking. We took the opportunity of the [World Hospice and](#)

[Palliative Care Day on 12 October to launch a campaign](#) to remind our messages.





## Good health in older age

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- A stronger commitment to the World Health Organisation

In 2019 AGE strengthened its longstanding relationship with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Our application as a “Non-State Actor in official relationship with the WHO” was formally accepted during the Regional Committee ([Copenhagen, Sept. 2019](#)). Our new status gave us the opportunity to make both [a written and oral statement](#) in which we explained how [WHO's Decade of Healthy Ageing](#) can help respond to

*“In the frame of inequities there are important issues of ageism, discrimination, elder abuse and other ageist practices, which lead to marginalisation and poverty. That’s why it is important to give a voice to older people in policy debates at European, national, regional and local levels.”*

Božidar Voljč, AGE expert at WHO workshop

the ageing of the population in Europe and encouraged EU countries to support WHO’s initiative.

We also had the opportunity to share our experience and perspectives during events organised by the WHO, notably the [High-Level Conference on Health Equity](#) and the [Policy](#)

[Workshop on innovation for active and healthy ageing](#). Those were further occasions to make EU older persons’ voice heard.

- Supporting the forthcoming Decade of Healthy Ageing

The World Health Organization (WHO) released on 9 July the draft proposal for a

decade of Healthy Ageing and opened it for consultation. [AGE provided a contribution supporting this proposal](#): such a Decade



being a powerful tool to mobilise all the relevant stakeholders and improve life of older persons. WHO's proposal is very much in line with our advocacy work: it takes a human rights-based approach and covers issues

we are working on, including ageism, age-friendly cities and communities, integrated care and long-term care. Our comments were taken on board in the final version of the proposal, notably the need to include older persons living in rural areas and to better reflect the heterogeneity of older persons. The impact of climate change and air pollution is also now more visible. We are also very pleased that the issue of age disaggregation and inclusiveness of data is mentioned as a key domain where more effort is required.

***“Young and old largely agree on the areas that governments should prioritise: fighting against poverty and unemployment, ensuring adequate income and support for all, guaranteeing access to education for every child and life-long learning opportunities regardless of age, introducing fair taxation, and ensuring a sustainable ecological transition. We stand side by side with young people expressing our mutual concern for the planet and fight for a sustainable future.”***

*Declaration adopted by AGE members - 12 June 2019*

## ■ Healthy environments for all

During the General Assembly (June 2019), AGE members clearly voiced their concern for the planet, a strong matter of intergenerational fairness. Our membership to the [European Public Health Alliance](#) is here particularly relevant considering their work on clean air. This work helps us to build our capacity as well as to raise awareness on the situation faced by older persons. The [scoping article published on our website](#) shows clearly the extend of the issue from an older persons' perspective as well as the advocacy opportunities that were already used and those to be further developed in 2020. For instance, the [WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing](#) and [the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#) are key hooks for AGE contribution to a greener Europe.

## ■ Health is a right at all ages

All along 2019, AGE seized the momentum of relevant “international” days to highlight the specific situation faced by older persons:

The International Women's Day was the opportunity to highlight the [double burden faced by older women when it comes to health, including sexual life](#).

The [2019 World Health Day](#) being dedicated to the Universal Health Coverage, we underlined that older people shouldn't be left behind and be better included into the Sustainable Development Goals Strategy.

Last but not least the [International Day of Mental Health, dedicated to suicide prevention](#), we shed light on the risk of mental health issues in older age and why older persons need better support in that area. We count here very much on the new Commissioner for health, Stella Kyriakides, who committed to be a voice for mental health.

### ■ Shortages of medicines

Together with 30 other organisations, [AGE co-signed a letter](#) to call on the European Commission to better prioritise the issue of medicine shortage in Europe. While the advocacy work done with this letter is clearly delivering results with the European Parliament and the Council, the position of the European Commission is still very unclear. At this stage, we don't know whether any action will be taken to launch a thorough research to provide clear and transparent information on the root causes of medicine shortage, including on responsible entities and affected population groups.

### ■ Supporting European research on health

In 2019 AGE was a partner in a number of Horizon2020-funded research projects dealing with health issues.

- Towards a fairer definition of old age

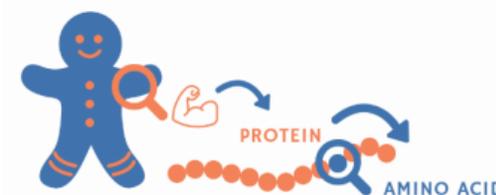
Scientific evidence provided by the statistical work of the Horizon 2020 [ATHLOS](#) project will be useful to further sustain AGE's work with WHO on the Decade for Healthy Ageing and

the European Commission Green Paper on Ageing, alongside with the European Semester. By comparing 20 international longitudinal studies on over 340 000 individuals, ATHLOS came up with a new definition of 'old age' based on many characteristics rather than just the classical chronological definition of age. Such basis can be used for calculating projections in each specific country and guide tailored policy recommendations. AGE organised a [policy event](#) at the European Parliament to share these insights with European decision-makers.



- Healthy ageing by eating well

Nutrition is a major determinant of healthy ageing, which is why AGE is involved in the [PROMISS project](#), focusing on protein intake among older people living at home. In 2019, AGE implemented a [protein webpage](#) (available in English, French, German, Italian and Dutch) that provides responses on how to stay active and healthy, why are proteins important, how much protein is needed and which foods are rich in protein. We have also created a number of [videos](#), to visualize key aspects of the project and make it more accessible for the general public.



➤ Preventing frailty

The [Frailsafe Project](#) released a measurement system predicting adverse events in frailty, with an accuracy of nearly 70%, which is



more than just the clinical assessment. The system provides quick and reliable information for frailty evaluation, can predict

hard outcomes and provides an opportunity for preventive strategies. Moreover, the consulted older adults, health care professionals, informal caregivers, IT professionals, commercial stakeholders shared an overwhelmingly positive feedback of the FrailSafe system. From a preventive perspective, Frailsafe could be considered as a supportive tool to



delay the onset of frailty and maintain one's intrinsic capacity, a strategy supported by the WHO Guidelines on Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE).

➤ Early detection of Parkinson's

The [i-PROGNOSIS project](#) made substantial progress in 2019 with the mobile application aiming to detect early Parkinson's disease symptoms being extended to Australia, Chile and most recently Belgium. This year



also marked the start of a trial that uses personalized

games to help persons with Parkinson's to mitigate their symptoms. The project uses the latest breakthrough

technologies in the field of artificial intelligence and thus feeds AGE reflection in relation to ethics, data protection, and healthy ageing.

➤ Digital solutions for ageing well

Convinced of the benefits of health prevention for ageing well, the [NESTORE project](#) progressed towards the release of the first full prototype of the virtual assistant for personalized coaching. AGE helped connecting the [project's developers with policy-makers and started compiling policy recommendation](#), while managing the project's [advisory board's inputs](#). The role of digital (health) literacy and the importance of data management in health will surely be further developed with practical insights from the pilot site activities (Milan, Barcelona and Rotterdam).



➤ Digital Health Solutions



Digital solutions will take a greater place in health care services now and in the future. However, they usually remain locally used. The [Digital health Europe project](#) aims at supporting the

European Commission in its three key priorities to advance the Digital Single Market in the area of health and care, but also local actors to facilitate the transfer and implementation of digitally-enabled innovative practices from one region to another thanks to the twinning call organised in the framework of this project. In 2019, an [online catalogue of digital solutions](#) was created to enable European actors to exchange good practices.





## Employment and Active participation

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- Life-long learning: a topic to be stronger emphasised

Learning is important at all ages. It is a key factor influencing older persons' participation in society, also beyond employment. In 2010 AGE participated in a number of events to promote the idea that life-long learning should not end with the exit from the labour market. In [a workshop of the transnational exchange platform of the European Social Fund in May](#), AGE facilitated a discussion presenting different initiatives where European funds have been used to promote leaning and active participation of older citizens. The workshop contributed to raising

the topic, and a similar exchange was organised in December for local authorities taking part in the Interreg programme.

In April at the 10th session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing in New York AGE [contributed to the discussions](#) on the right to education.



AGE also participated in a debate on the impact of digitalisation on social inclusion of older persons by the civil society organisation All Digital in December. We highlighted the risk of leaving older persons behind when digitalising public and private services, especially in rural areas where local services are disappearing.

■ Employment policies for an ageing labour market:  
breakthrough on work-life balance

2019 saw the outcome of our long-term work to raise awareness of the increasing pressure faced by older workers who are challenged to reconcile longer careers with the need for care and assistance of older family members. The European legislators discussed a proposal of a directive on work-life balance that introduced the right to carer's leave and to request flexible working arrangements from employers for caring duties. AGE sent several letters to the EU Council of Ministers before it agreed on a compromise with the European Parliament. Finally, [the directive was adopted with reduced ambition](#), but this is still a significant step forward for informal carers throughout the EU.

Demographic ageing is an opportunity, if suitable policies are adopted to prepare societies for this change. We pointed out some of them in our contribution to [the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee](#) on longevity and the world of work.

A strong focus was put on gender equality, as [AGE responded with a policy paper to the Commission consultation on Equal Pay](#). In our contribution, we highlighted the numerous causes of the gender pay and pension gap and makes concrete proposals for closing the gender pay gap in a life-cycle perspective by investing in quality care services.

***Multiple discrimination is still not recognised in many provisions of European law.***



***One of the factors determining the gender pay gap which is less widely known is the increase of the gender pay gap with age.***

AGE position paper on gender pay gap



## Old-age social inclusion

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In 2019 the issues of loneliness and social isolation and exclusion were at the core of AGE reflection. We addressed them in both internal discussions and during the exchanges with external stakeholders. We investigated on all various factors increasing someone's risk of experiencing, loneliness and/or exclusion from social relations when ageing. These may include gender, household circumstances and marital status, physical and mental health, low socio-economic status, ethnicity or sexuality.

- [Understanding old age loneliness & exclusion](#)

AGE internal reflection fed and built on the work of the ongoing international collaboration in research and policy [ROSEnet](#) –

[Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion](#). Together we held in April a [public policy seminar](#), involving our Council members, with an aim of connecting findings from the research on old-age loneliness and social isolation to policy planning and actions at EU and national levels. Along with our members, older people at the grass roots level, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, we built a better understanding of who might experience loneliness or be socially isolated. We also

*“The human rights frame helps us see the whole person, instead of focusing merely on the deficits and needs.”*

Nena Georgantzi at ROSEnet seminar

investigated on what support is needed and at which policy level the phenomenon should be addressed.

Again in collaboration with ROSEnet, we looked at the multidimensional aspect of social exclusion in later life at a

[European policy seminar](#) in Barcelona in October. We insisted on the importance of a new narrative that generates a more positive, human rights-based perception of older persons.

#### ■ Bridging EU processes

Our 2019 work seized the institutional changes at EU level to rethink our long-term strategy to promote social inclusion in old age. We believe the European Pillar of Social Rights is best placed to address various risks factors of loneliness and social isolation in later life. Notwithstanding the national competence in the social field, the EU framework must be used to support efforts of member states, for example through defining minimum standards for social policy intervention. There are several rights and principles listed in the Pillar that refer to older persons and can address, specifically, the causes of social exclusion in later life e.g. through adequate social protection,



*We need to move away from negative notions of disadvantage that may result into further exclusion and marginalisation*

ROSEnet seminar

and to support labour market access and well-functioning welfare systems. AGE made this recommendation at the FEAD – Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived 16<sup>th</sup> Network Meeting in June in Vilnius where we presented a ‘reality check’ of the risk of poverty and social exclusion in old age.

Through our cooperation with the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) we drew attention to the increasing risk of poverty and social inclusion in older age at a policy [roundtable](#) with social attachés in Permanent Representations in Brussels and the European Commission in May. We insisted on the role of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Semester to take up the challenge.





## Adequate pensions

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### ■ Stressing the gender gap

AGE continued to raise awareness for the pressing problem of the gender pension gap, [co-organising a breakfast event on the gender pension gap](#) in Brussels and by responding to the EU Commission's [consultation on the principle of Equal Pay](#) (see above). Pension reforms and the challenge for adequacy of pensions were also covered by the AGE Barometer and our work on the European Semester.

*“Many women have not chosen the kind of life that has an impact on their pension: they need to compensate for absence of care services for children and family members in need for care.”*

Anne-Sophie Parent

### ■ Protecting pension savers

AGE used its mandate as a member of the [Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group](#) of the EU supervisory body European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) to promote a more inclusive vision of occupational pensions. AGE highlighted several times the need to make all the information and documents in occupational pensions understandable to consumers with low financial literacy and accessible to persons with disability, even in the phase when beneficiaries are retrieving

their pension. As a comment to the annual Consumer Trends Report of EIOPA, we highlighted that it would be important to not only assess the financial stability of occupational pensions, but also the share of people actually covered by these, to better understand the impact on gender equality and other socio-economic inequalities among older persons.

AGE [campaigned also around the recently adopted regulation on Pan-European Personal Pensions Products \(PEPP\)](#), a major step to introduce an EU wide private pensions market. AGE highlighted the risk for this EU initiative to give a false impression of security of assets, as a default option for pension products would not protect savers from investment fees and inflation. AGE supported other financial consumers' organisations, such as Better Finance, on this topic.

#### ■ [AGE participation in the High-Level Group on Pensions](#)

In summer 2018, following an open call for interests, AGE Secretary General was selected by the European Commission to sit in the High-Level Group of Experts on Pensions set up by DG EMPL and DG FISMA. The group was composed of [eleven experts](#). Its mission was to provide policy advice to the



Commission on matters related to ways of improving the provision, safety through prudential rules, intergenerational balance, adequacy and sustainability of supplementary (occupational and personal) pensions in light of the challenges in the Union and the Member States affecting the adequacy of old age incomes and the development of the Union's pension market. The group met 10 times, twice in autumn 2018 and eight times in 2019. While the whole group contributed to all chapters of the report, Ms Parent was asked to lead on the chapter on pension decumulation and on gender equality issues. She was also part of the subgroups drafting the chapters on "Coverage", "risk shifting" and "sustainable finance". The report was finalised and approved by the High-Level Group on 13 December. The final report will be published early 2020 on the Commission Register of Expert groups. It is also foreseen that it will be presented publicly to the relevant EU Commissioners in spring 2020. This report will inform the debate on the upcoming Green Paper on Ageing. Given the growing importance of supplementary pensions in ensuring an adequate income in old age, it was crucial for AGE to influence this report which includes recommendations to the European Commission and Member States developed by the relevant stakeholders.





## Age-friendly environments

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### ■ European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

AGE commitment to the action group of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA) dedicated to age-friendly environments did not waver in 2020.

We actively contributed to the renewal of the action plan of this group. We also helped liaising the initiatives developed at grass root level with the wider EU and global context during the [physical meetings in May in Krakow](#). The



meeting participants agreed to develop a joint contribution to the forthcoming implementation of Horizon Europe and of the Digital Europe Programme. The aim is to ensure that the legacy of the work conducted by the action group would be kept alive with the renewed funding programme. AGE initiated the draft and coordinated the effort.

AGE's work with the EIP AHA is moreover ensured by its participation to the Horizon2020 [We4AHA](#) project, thanks to which AGE contributed to the [Blueprint for a digital transformation of health and care in an ageing society](#).



- The role of local and regional authorities to promote healthy ageing

Healthy ageing in cities was the topic of a [successful event](#) held during the [European Week of Regions and Cities](#) with the



cooperation of ESPON and the Joint Action ADVANTAGE. AGE supported the European Covenant on Demographic Change in organizing this event, which was the opportunity to share good practices and concrete

examples from different cities,

including across domains with two concrete cases: frailty prevention and housing. The age-friendly housing aspect was

covered by the [Homes4Life project](#), where AGE was involved to Europe. A vision document resulted from this report which depicts how society would look like if all housing were considered age-friendly. Around 100 participants were invited to discuss the main messages conveyed by the speakers: namely regarding the need for a more comprehensive approach to ageing in a community, fair funding, older persons' policy involvement, proper assessment of issues and solutions and a positive perception of later life.

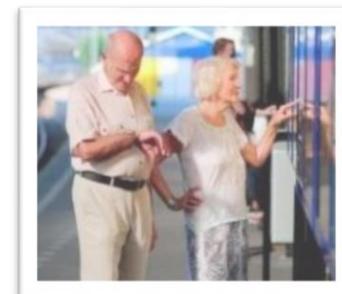
[Read our article for more.](#)



- Advocating for accessibility as a key basis for age-friendly environments

The Accessibility Act (EAA) has been a major step forward for which we actively advocated along with the European Disability Forum and ANEC - the European consumer voice in standardisation. In 2019, the EAA was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council opening the transposition period. ([read our article](#)) AGE encouraged its members to join a webinar initiated by the European Disability Forum to start raising awareness among Civil Society Organisations working at national level. Their role will indeed be crucial to monitor the transposition of the Directive at national level and eventually put pressure on national government to be even more ambitious, notably when it comes to built environment.

Regarding accessibility in transport, we worked on different key EU developments. AGE decided to join forces with the European Disability Forum and the European Passengers' Forum to advocate for an ambitious revision of the passengers' rights regulation in railway. A [joint statement](#) and a [joint letter](#) were issued ahead of key Council meetings to call on Member States to follow the approach proposed by the European Commission and the European Parliament. Unfortunately, from the latest information we got, key provisions to support seamless travel were dropped out.



Moreover, AGE continued to work on accessibility in railway with the European Commission and the European Railway Agency thanks to the support of two of our experts, Peter Rayner and Frans Moltzer.

Standardisation being a strong tool to support accessibility, we decided in 2019 to strengthen the relationship with ANEC and to streamline our work on standardisation. Through ANEC we for example provided input on the rolling plan developed by the EU ICT Standardisation Platform: an informative document to support the prioritisation of the standardisation work to be led by the European Commission.

Last but not least, AGE once again actively supported the [EU Access City Award](#) since this initiative led by the European Commission highlights the challenges faced by persons with reduced mobility in cities while raising awareness on good and concrete examples. AGE's former President, Liz Mestheneos, was involved in the EU jury 2020 edition which awarded the city of Warsaw.



Our work on standardisation was supported by AGE involvement in the EU-funded PROGRESSIVE project. In January 2019, the project dealing with standards in the field of ICT for active and healthy ageing (AHA) came to an end. It delivered a list of 9

ethical tenets that should be observed in the standardisation work around ICT for AHA. Alongside with those underpinning principles, the project published guidelines for the co-production of standards, procurement tips for age-friendly communities and a draft guide about standards for age-friendly homes. The project closed with a joint declaration calling to engage with users of all ages in standards development.

<https://progressivestandards.org/>

#### ■ Digitalisation of society

In order to influence the discussion around the EU digital agenda, AGE joined a coalition launched by OSEPI (Open Society European Policy Institute) and BEUC (The European Consumer Organisation) which published a [Human Centred Digital Manifesto for Europe](#). Looking at the way digital issues have been mainstreamed across different portfolios of the new European Commission, the work of this coalition must be taken on board. Also the commitment made by the new President in her political guidelines echoes the work of the coalition:

“In my first 100 days in office, I will put forward legislation for a coordinated European approach on the human and ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence. This should also look at how we can use big



data for innovations that create wealth for our societies and our businesses.”



Big data and open data are at the center of numerous public services that governments can set up and sustain for a more inclusive and friendly society. With that respect, the [Mobile-Age](#) project’s solutions come into the picture: entirely co-created with older adults, mobile apps tackle social isolation and loneliness, accessibility issues in public transport, health promotion and age-friendly neighborhoods, using open data. Supported by AGE, [Policy recommendations](#) and a [co-creation guidebook](#) have seen the light: these are practical tools for public authorities to define and design solutions with their

citizens, regardless of their age.



A digitalized society, however, encompasses also other tools: smart sofas, smart shoes and smart garments have been chosen by the [Maturolife](#) project to contribute to the quality of life when we grow older. Through its [newsletter](#) and its Stakeholder Representative Panel, managed by AGE, updates on co-designed prototypes’ development are provided, towards more comfortable, practical and fashionable every day’s assistive devices.

In April AGE was invited by the OECD to contribute input to the development of [policy priorities on Ageing that were adopted by the G20 in Japan in July to help better meet the needs of older persons in terms of financial services in a digitalised world.](#)

AGE was also vocal in the press through a number of articles highlighting the concern of older persons in relation to digitalisation:

- [Article on EPHA’s website](#) (European Public Health Alliance whom we are a member of) for a special issue dedicated to digital health.
- Article in [HealthManagement.org: an online](#) and paper magazine that covers management issues in healthcare as well as the ongoing innovation and technological advancement within this sector (Exposure to 170, 000 monthly website visitors and at key medical congresses).
- For [Independent Age](#), we look at the financial risks facing older people in an increasingly digital world.

*“Will we see an increase in the number of “incapacitated” older persons as a result of digitisation of financial services?”*

Anne-Sophie Parent



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# ABOUT AGE NETWORK

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# AGE structure

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AGE structure is organised in such a way as to reflect its main mission of representing older people's interests and needs across the EU and building their capacity to speak on their own behalf and influence EU policy developments.

Regular meetings with our members and experts were held throughout the year to advance our work priorities and implement our work programme, provide input on specific dossiers and address management and organizational issues.

- AGE General Assembly: is AGE governing body and is composed of all full member organisations. They met in June to take stock of AGE action in 2018 and decide on the work priorities for 2019.
- AGE 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 implementation of the work programme and for policy decisions.
- AGE Executive Committee: is composed of the President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary. It meets 4 times a year and is responsible for providing policy guidance and ensuring that the statutes and internal rules are adhered to.
- AGE Accreditation Committee: deals with all issues around membership, including new applications for membership and to forward its recommendations to the Council and the General Assembly.
- AGE Task Forces: 7 Task Forces and 2 Policy Coordination Groups informed AGE's work on specific policy dossiers related to Age-Friendly EU & Accessibility, Human Rights and Non-Discrimination, Employment, active citizenship and participation, Adequate Income and Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion, Consumer's Rights and Financial Services, Healthy Ageing, Dignified ageing, the European Semester and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). Their members are experts nominated by AGE members. They worked mainly through e-mail exchange and met occasionally in Brussels.
- AGE Secretariat: is responsible for the day-to-day management of the association and for liaising with the EU institutions.

# AGE governing bodies & secretariat

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- Executive Committee



**Heidrun Mollenkopf**  
Vice-President  
Germany



**Regine Matthijsen**  
Vice-President  
Netherlands



**José-Luis Tejedor**  
Vice-President  
Spain



**Fernando Martins**  
Vice-President  
Portugal



**Ebbe Johansen**  
President  
Denmark



**Elena Weber**  
Secretary  
EAN



**Jean-Michel Hôte**  
Treasurer  
France

## ■ Secretariat



- Anne-Sophie Parent - Secretary General: [annesophie.parent@age-platform.eu](mailto:annesophie.parent@age-platform.eu)
- Maciej Kucharczyk - Managing Director: [maciej.kucharczyk@age-platform.eu](mailto:maciej.kucharczyk@age-platform.eu)
- Hanan Soussi - Office Manager : [info@age-platform.eu](mailto:info@age-platform.eu)
- Nathalie De Craecker - Administrative Assistant : [nathalie.decraecker@age-platform.eu](mailto:nathalie.decraecker@age-platform.eu)
- Anne Melard - Information & Communication Officer: [anne.melard@age-platform.eu](mailto:anne.melard@age-platform.eu)
- Ilenia Gheno - Research Project Manager: [ilenia.gheno@age-platform.eu](mailto:ilenia.gheno@age-platform.eu)
- Julia Wadoux - Policy & Project Coordinator: [julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu](mailto:julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu)
- Nena Georgantzi – Human Rights Officer: [nenageorgantzi@age-platform.eu](mailto:nenageorgantzi@age-platform.eu)
- Philippe Seidel - Policy & EP Liaison Officer: [philippe.seidel@age-platform.eu](mailto:philippe.seidel@age-platform.eu)
- Borja Arrue Astrain - Project & Policy Officer: [borja.arrue@age-platform.eu](mailto:borja.arrue@age-platform.eu)
- Estelle Huchet - Campaign and Project Officer: [estelle.huchet@age-platform.eu](mailto:estelle.huchet@age-platform.eu)
- Nhu Tram - Project Officer: [nhu.tram@age-platform.eu](mailto:nhu.tram@age-platform.eu)
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- Luisa Buzelli - Project Officer: [luisa.buzelli@age-platform.eu](mailto:luisa.buzelli@age-platform.eu)
- Stefan Hopf – Early-Stage Reasearcher: [stefan.hopf@age-platform.eu](mailto:stefan.hopf@age-platform.eu)

# AGE Council Members

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President: Ebbe Johansen (Denmark)

## ■ Full Members

National Organisations:

Austria: Glatz Harald

Belgium: Marchal Pierre-Jacques

Bulgaria: Todorovska Nadezhda

Croatia: Vrban Ines

Cyprus: Alexis Michaelides

Czech Republic: Lorman Jaroslav

Denmark: Johansen Ebbe

Estonia: Ergma Andres

Finland: Sundqvist Björn

France: Connan Claude / Bazot Bernard

Germany: Mollekopf Heidrun

Greece: Ranga Myrto

Hungary:

Ireland: McKinney Ciaran

Italy: Zuluaga Camilo / Grenzi Giorgio

Lithuania: Gediminas Kuliesis

Malta: De Giovanni Anthony

Netherlands: Matthijsen Regine

Poland: Kominek Ewa / Potocka Halina

Portugal: Martins Fernando

Romania: Chioaru Gheorghe

Slovenia: Puhar Jožica

Spain: Matas de la Rica Agustina / Tejedor José Luis

Sweden: Rogestam Christina

UK: Luxton David / Walsh Chris

European Federations:

Guaragna Sonia (FIAPA)

Hallberg Leif (ESU)

Tallberg Christina (NOPO)

Jarré Dirk (EURAG)

European Organisations:

Champvert Pascal (EDE)

Elizabeth Sclater (OWN Europe)

## ■ Substitute Members

### National Organisations:

Austria: Hawlicek Hilde

Belgium: Geerts Maddie

Bulgaria: Petkova Maria

Croatia: Višnja Fortuna

Cyprus: Dodou Maria

Czech Republic: Sokacova Linda

Denmark: Kirstein John

Finland: Hamro-Drotz Philip

France: Bultez Jean-Pierre / Hôte Jean-Michel

Germany: Voelcker Ina / Satrapa-Schill Almut

Greece: Pavlidis George

Hungary: Patyan Laszlo

Ireland: Carey Liam

Italy: Volponi Fabio / Zaffarano Giuseppe

Malta: Naudi Gaetan

Netherlands: Marja Pijl

Poland: Iwanicka Elzbieta / Nowakowska Hanna

Portugal: Angela Dias da Silva

Romania: Iancu Marin

Slovenia: Krivec Katja

Spain: Maria Rosa Lunas Masnou / Landaluce Jose-Ramon

Sweden: Martin Engman

UK: Carney Gemma /

### European Federations:

François Genelle (FIAPA)

van Halewijn Ghislaine (ESU)

Daidsen Jan (NOPO)

Jaap van der Spek (EURAG)

### European Organisations:

Elena Weber (EDE)

Andrea Ferenczi (OWN EUROPE)



# AGE Members in 2019

---

## Austria:

Pensionisten Verband

## Belgium:

CD&V-senioren

Courants d'Âges asbl - Réseau de l'Intergénération

Enéo (ex UCP)

Federatie Onafhankelijke Senioren (FedOS)

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

## Czech Republic:

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

Fédération Nationale des Associations de Retraités

Génération Mouvement - Fédération nationale

Information Défense Action Retraite (IDAR)

Les petits frères des Pauvres

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)  
Kuratorium Deutsche Altershilfe, Wilhelmine-Lübke-Stiftung e.V.  
Sozialverband VdK Deutschland E.V. (observer member)

Greece:

50Hellas+

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 (ANCESCO)  
Associazione Nazionale Pensionati (CIA)  
ATDAL Over 40  
CNA Pensionati  
FAP ACLI

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 - societa cooperativa sociale a r.l. (observer member)  
UNITRE University of Third Age

Lithuania:

Lithuanian Pensioners Union, "Bociai"

Malta:

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

Netherlands:

Nationaal Ouderenfonds (NFE)  
Nederlandse Vereniging van Organisaties van Gepensioneerden (NVOG)  
Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk - Nederland  
KBO-PCOB  
Gouden Dage  
Stichting Jan Nagel 50+

Poland:

Fundacja na Rzecz Kobiet JA KOBIETA (Foundation for Women's Issues)

Portugal:

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

Romania:

National Federation Omenia/Federatia Nationala Omenia

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)  
Federacion Territorial de Asociaciones provinciales de pensionistas y jubilados de alava, Guipuzcoa y Vizcaya (FEDERPEN)  
Spanish Red Cross  
Union Democratica de Pensionistas (UDP)

Sweden:

SPF Seniorerna

Switzerland :

Age Stiftung (observer member)  
Conseil Suisse des Aînés

Turkey:

Türkiye Emekliler Dernegi (Turkey Retired Persons Organisation) – TIED (observer member)  
65+ Elder Rights Association

United Kingdom:

Age UK  
British Society of Gerontology  
Civil Service Pensioners Alliance  
Homeshare International  
International Longevity Centre Uk (ILC-UK) (observer member)  
National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO)  
National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers (RMT) (observer member)  
Public Service Pensioner's Council (PSPC)  
The National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (observer member)  
Wise Age

European Federations:

EURAG - Europäisches Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen  
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



# Membership to other EU organisations

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AGE is a member of...

socialplatform

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 around 100 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.



The [Covenant on Demographic Change](#) gathers European public authorities, at local, regional and national level, and other relevant stakeholders, committed to develop environments that support active and healthy ageing, enhance independent living and well-being of older persons, and create a society for all ages.

# Consultative groups

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In 2018 AGE took part in:



## 16 EU consultative groups

### European commission

- e-Health Stakeholders Group
- European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing Action group D4
- European High-Level Group on Pensions
- European Social Fund Transnational Network on Employment
- EU Health Policy Forum
- Financial Services User Group
- Stakeholder Group of the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth
- The European Commission & Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Steering Group of joint project on effective social protection for long-term care

### European Agencies

- Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Fundamental Rights Agency
- WG of Patients and Consumers Working Parties of the European Medicines Agency
- WG on Technical Specification on Interoperability of the European Railway Agency

*AB= Advisory board*

*WG= Working group*

## Other European institutions

- Euro Retail Payment Board of the European Central Bank
- European Economic and Social Committee liaison group with NGOs
- Stakeholder group of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA)

## European joint programmes

- The Advisory Board of the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (Chair)
- The Societal Advisory Board of the More Years Better Lives Joint Initiative Programme (chair)



## 10 Civil society groups

- ANEC: Design For All WG of the European consumer voice in standardization
- CEN-CENELEC : Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility
- European Covenant on Demographic Change
- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA):
- CER (the Voice of European Railways): Customer Liaison Group
- Social Platform: Steering Group and Management Committee
- European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN): EU Inclusion Strategies Group
- NGOs Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable European Semester
- NGOs Coalition led by the EAPN on Minimum Income – contributing to the European Minimum Income Network EMIN II
- Steering Group of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People



## 8 International consultative groups

### United Nations

- Consultative Status with UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG)
- Member of the UN-ECE Expert Group on the Active Ageing Index
- NGO Committee on Ageing at the UN-Geneva Headquarters
- WHO Europe – Non State Actor in official relationship with the WHO
- WHO global Network of AGE-Friendly Cities and Communities – group of affiliated programmes

### Other international groups

- International Conference of NGOs (iNGOs) of the Council of Europe
- Steering Group of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People



# Communication tools

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## Website:

+340 web-articles posted on AGE website

202,791 page views - 79,992 visitors

## Newsletter CoverAGE:

11 editions + 2200 subscribers

15 **Newsflashes** to AGE members

13 **Press releases**

## Social Media:



5.964 followers - +450 tweets



1.918 followers - 70 posts

## Blogs

#AgeingEqual campaign: +4,300 visitors

EP elections: 23.443 page views, 12.320 visitors

# Financial Information

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AGE's policy activities in 2019 were financed by membership fees and donations (20%) and by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) of the European Union (DG Justice) (80%). In 2019, AGE received additional incomes such as a donation from Essity and a grant from the Region of Biscay's to support our work on long term care.

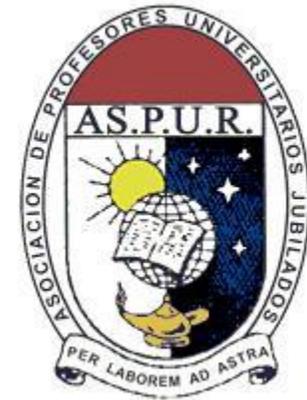
AGE continued its work on European Research Projects throughout 2019, besides being involved in new proposals. AGE was partner of 18 projects dealing with new technologies, health

and care, and age-friendly environments. Those projects financed mainly by the European Horizon 2020 Programme are: Athlos, DigitalHealthEurope, EuroAgeism, Frailsafe, Homes4Life, InAdvance, I-Prognosis, Mobile-Age, Maturolife, Nestore, Pace, Progressive, Pharaon, Promiss, Shapes, Sustain, ValueCare and We4AHA. AGE participation in EU research projects is 100% covered by EU funding.

For more information about AGE Financial Resources, visit our website at: <http://www.age-platform.eu/financial-resources>

# Donors

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Nederlandse Vereniging van  
Organisaties Van Gepensioneerden





PA.SY.D.Y.

Union of Retired Persons, Cyprus



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



## 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 200 million 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 European society for all ages and that there is a need to promote solidarity between generations in a way that recognises older people's contributions to society.

By joining AGE Platform Europe, you are doing more than expressing support for AGE's work. AGE members also gain the possibility to:

- Participate in an organisation with a strong and effective voice at EU level;
- Make their voice heard in the network's work and help AGE bring forward the point of view of older people on EU issues that concern them;
- Receive regular information on relevant developments relating to older and retired people;
- Receive up-to-date information on EU funding opportunities, proposals to participate in EU-wide projects and support for the drafting of your own projects;
- The opportunity to share and exchange information with other AGE members.

Interested in becoming a member of AGE? Visit our website: <https://www.age-platform.eu/membership>



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