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# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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# FOREWORDS

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## Ebbe Johansen, President

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The year 2020 was a year with great challenges for all of us due to COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented global health crisis put our lives on hold. Older people, who are more at risk from the disease, have been hard hit, and we are saddened by the high loss of lives. AGE has experienced discrimination, ageism, isolation, and loneliness towards older people, but we are satisfied to see that chronically ill and older people are high on the vaccination list, and thankful for the great effort from health personnel.

Because of restrictions AGE staff has worked from home to a high degree and meetings have been conducted online. Although we are missing physical contact and the personal inspiration, we also learned that remote meetings can be quite effective. As an example, we were forced to run our General Assembly as two WEB meetings.

The work with the new European Parliament and Commission has developed well with good contacts and recognition of AGE's work. AGE was invited on many occasions to EU online debates on COVID-19 impact on vulnerable groups, and we contributed to a number of dossiers.

In recent years, the EU has strengthened its social focus. In October 2020 the EU Council adopted conclusions on human rights, participation, and well-being of older persons in the era of digitalisation. An increased social focus is also seen with the adoption in early 2021 of the Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, which is a base for the Commission's work in the social field including Long Term Care. The Commission works on the upcoming European Green Paper on Ageing. With input from members, AGE contributed to this paper, and we look forward to the upcoming results and opportunities.

In the year 2020 we nominated our new Secretary General and with his long experience in AGE, he is in a strong position to advance our future. One of his first actions was to appoint a Membership and Campaign Officer. This important step can bring AGE closer to our members and even attract new members as well as donors. As a non-profit European network, AGE will continue its strong work with policy advocacy and projects for the benefit of older people.



## Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General

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2020 was a year of transition, between the world before and with the pandemic, but also, internally at AGE, between the past and the new direction toward new horizons.

I had the honour of taking on new responsibilities as AGE's General Secretary to build on the work made over the last eighteen years by our members and my predecessor, Ms Anne-Sophie Parent. Since then, we have continued making AGE an even more representative movement with the capacity to express the aspirations of older people and to influence policies. We have initiated a great deal of internal and external work, notably to ensure AGE's long-term financial sustainability, expand our membership and to strengthen cooperation among our members. We will continue to deploy our collective intelligence and experience to make it easier for older people to participate in our work and, finally, we will continue to ensure that aging issues remain visible, heard, and translated into policy action.

Last year has shown how fragile our societies are, whatever our age. Never have the human rights of older people been questioned or even challenged with an impact like that of the pandemic. Yet our societies have never been done such opportunity to rethink our future. This is a unique opportunity

for us to join the EU and our national governments in their efforts to build back better.

Our ability to recover from the pandemic will depend on our collective efforts and on political will to avoid another similar crisis and the deterioration of our well-being. Our aim remains to enable everyone in ageing societies to live and age in dignity, according to their wishes, to contribute to and benefit equally from freedom, democracy, and prosperity. Beyond the pandemic, our world will be for all ages!





## HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

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### Facing the pandemic together

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The pandemic has violently exposed pre-existing challenges in the context of demographic ageing, from pervasive ageism to the weaknesses of our health and long-term care systems. It has also left many people of all ages isolated, preventing them from access to education or socialisation. Lack of contacts with family and friends has been particularly hard for many older people, especially those living in nursing homes or alone. At the same time, the crisis generated an unprecedented political momentum to advocate for the respect of human rights as we age. It also raised fundamental questions about our societies and the way they function, such as the importance of solidarity within and among generations or the links between the pandemic, climate change and growing socio-economic inequalities.

- **Older people around Europe hold on**

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic suspended many aspects of our lives. But if there is one thing that did not stop, it is our

capacity as civil society organisations, to adapt and face with resilience and solidarity. At national level, AGE member organisations shifted their work programmes and activities to

comply with the COVID-19 measures and best support older people in their communities, namely through the development of diverse online activities and services.

At EU and international level, the pandemic AGE longstanding recommendations on the need to respect dignity in old age, to ensure universal access to adequate and quality social protection or to combat old-age isolation and loneliness have acquired a new and more urgent meaning than ever before. Our voice was heard. We were invited on many occasions to high-level EU, WHO and UN online debates on COVID-19 impact on vulnerable groups and we contributed to various statements and positions.

#### ■ **Older people in the eye of the storm**

The pandemic exposed in a new crude light how age criterion can be wrongly used in policies leading to discrimination. AGE was busier than ever monitoring the lived experiences of older people across Europe. In a report first published in April and updated in May, AGE reported alarming human rights' violations in older age in the context of the pandemic. In December, the second edition of the AGE Barometer analysed and showed that the crisis has magnified pre-existing struggles for many older people.

All along the year though, AGE also emphasized that while some older people might be at increased risk of exclusion or serious health consequences, many others remained resilient and were

striving to provide support to the others. Older people supported children and grandchildren – sometimes remotely, sometimes financially – during the crisis. Older workers in emergency sectors close to retirement or retirees themselves volunteered to return to work. Older people volunteered to provide food, medication, and combat isolation or simply sewed protective masks.

#### ■ **AGE endeavours to guide crisis management**

In this storm, AGE did its utmost efforts to stand both as a watchdog and a partner. Various open letters to the European Commission and European Parliament recalled that chronological age should never be used for the allocation of goods and services nor a criterion for determining people's vulnerabilities, prognosis, or treatment options. More than ever, AGE stressed the obligation for the states to take measures that would prevent discrimination and abuse and address the needs of people in vulnerable situations.

Based on the evidence from the grass roots level brought by AGE and other civil society organisations, several Members of the European Parliament raised concerns to the assembly their concerns regarding the management of the crisis in long-term care facilities - an alarming situation that was also brought by AGE on the occasion of various meetings and exchanges to the attention of the European Commission President, Vice Presidents and several Commissioners.

- **AGE pledges for an exit that secures age equality**

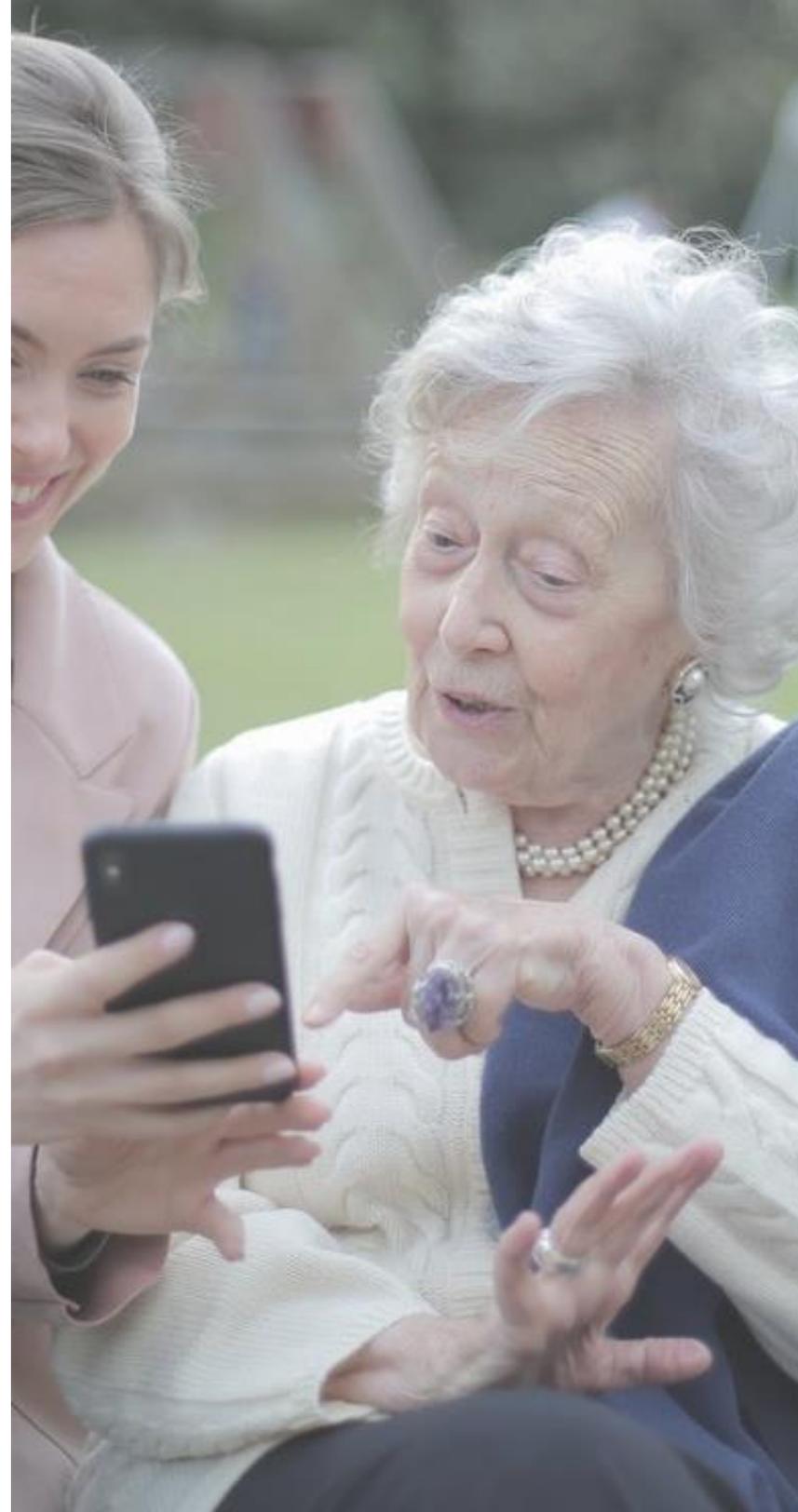
In May already, as Europe emerges the first wave of the pandemic, AGE published a report calling for the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis to put in place social safety nets that would protect us from the growing inequalities and economic turmoil experienced after the financial crisis of 2008-2009.

In an international online conference jointly organised by AGE, our German member organisation, BAGSO, and the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as part of the Germany Presidency in the EU, policy makers, experts, and civil society put forward concrete solutions to strengthen the rights of older people in times of digitalisation.

The EU Council conclusions that followed on the same issue paved the way for promising policy developments to address older people's rights at European level. It remains to be seen if the upcoming European Green Paper on Ageing to be released in 2021 meets the standards discussed under the German Presidency of the European Union.

# AGE WORK IN 2020 to promote...

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## Equal rights in older age

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- **Bringing to the fore the human rights implications of COVID-19**

Evidence collected from our member organisations and external sources demonstrated early on that the coronavirus pandemic poses distinct threats to the equal enjoyment of human rights by older persons. Our [report](#) on the implications of COVID-19 on the rights of older persons highlighted key issues in particular, in terms of access to health and social care, discrimination and social exclusion. In May 2020 we updated our [report](#) with more information, with regard to risks to the right to health, including mental health and palliative care, how digital exclusion adversely impacts older people's opportunities for social contact and access to information, medical and other services and the increased risk of violence and abuse during the lockdown. We

also gathered evidence regarding the specific challenges faced by older people in residential settings, those who live alone and older persons who receive care at home, as well as multiple disadvantages for older women, [older LGBTI](#) and [older Roma](#).

Our reports on human rights in the context of COVID-19 became a key reference document among EU and international stakeholders, such as the [UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons](#), the [Group of Chief Scientific Advisors to the European Commission](#), the EU [Fundamental Rights Agency](#) and the [Council of Europe](#)

In view of the serious violations of the human rights of older people that we identified in our human rights report, we addressed letters to EU Commissioners, the European Parliament and the [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

and engaged in high-level policy discussions with Commission services, UN officials, academics, and other civil society organisations\*. Our findings also fed into our responses to several EU, UN, and Council of Europe consultations on the impact of COVID-19 on people in vulnerable populations and civil society, as well as in the drafting of the EU LGBTI+ Equality and the Disability Rights Strategy.

\* *To read more on those discussions:*

- [AGE joins NGOs' call for strengthening recognition and inclusion of older people within the UN system](#)
- [Learning from COVID-19 in strengthening older persons' rights](#)
- [Age Discrimination: Do we need a new international legal instrument to fight ageism?](#)
- [AGE suggests ways out of ageism at a webinar on older persons' rights](#)
- [International Day of Older People: will you join the debate?](#)

## ■ **Involving older people in an inclusive recovery**

From the very beginning of the pandemic, we started to gather the voices of our members to inform discussions at European level on the shape of the recovery. AGE issued a [working paper](#) on the recovery from COVID-19, calling for drawing the lessons from the 2008-2014 great depression and debt crisis. We emphasized the need for centring the recovery on people and the planet, in a spirit of solidarity at EU level. In particular we called for strengthening the health and

long-term care systems, ensuring equal protection for older workers during the crisis, and for supporting adequacy of income in older age. Several of AGE's proposals were part of the solutions put forward by the European Commission as part of the EU recovery instruments. For instance, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiatives allows member states to directly fund health and long-term care sectors with unused ESF+ and cohesion funds; the SURE unemployment reinsurance scheme supports member states in financing temporary unemployment for workers during the economic downturn; and the EU4Health programmes resources has been increased to 2.2 billion euros for the period 2021-2027.

Our paper on the recovery from the pandemic also shaped [AGE's response](#) to the long open consultation on reinforcing social Europe. We underlined the importance of NGOs' participation in the governance of the European Semester, the EU's coordination mechanism of economic and social policies. AGE also sketched out how to implement the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights on long-term care, support for persons with disabilities, old-age income, and minimum income. COVID-19 also underpinned [AGE's contribution](#) to the European Semester this year, praising some of the adaptations that have been made to enable EU member states to react to the pandemic in the health sector, but at the same time underlining that more is needed to build resilient societies in the longer term. We regretted that long-term care, gender equality and

age-inclusive labour market are absent from this years' reform programmes and recommendations.

## ■ **Protecting rights in the context of digitalisation and beyond**

The online international conference which we organised together with the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and our member organisation in Germany, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations (BAGSO) acted as a catalyst for more attention to human rights in the context of ageing. The [event](#) which gathered key EU and UN officials and Member States as well as civil society representatives from Europe and beyond focused on older people's rights in times of digitalisation. The discussions at the conference and the [Council conclusions](#) which were adopted shortly after, called for a rights-based approach to ageing policies and to COVID-19 recovery strategies. This was a critical milestone, as older people had not been the focus of Council Conclusion for more than 10 years, and a legacy for the upcoming Green paper on ageing.

In [an EU consultation](#), we also highlighted the key challenges that the development of artificial intelligence poses to fundamental rights. We addressed the digital exclusion, the increased use of new technologies in the care sector and ageism as a clear risk factor.

## ■ **Advocating for a new United Nations instrument**

Although the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) had to be postponed, the learnings from COVID-19 also provided an important opportunity to increase awareness about the need to better protect human rights in older age and to adopt a new United Nations convention. AGE participated in several online debates \* and contributed to a [discussion paper](#) examining how the rights of older persons have been ignored and denied in many responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper explains how a convention that protects the rights of older persons everywhere would help take age discrimination seriously and, as a result, build societies that are fair and just for all.

*\* To read more on those debates:*

- [AGE advocates for an international Convention on older persons' rights at the Belgian Parliament](#)
- [AGE suggests ways out of ageism at a webinar on older persons' rights](#)
- [Learning from COVID-19 in strengthening older persons' rights](#)

Alongside more than 100 NGOs we also sent an open [letter](#) to the UN Secretary General calling on the United Nations to set a plan to strengthen the inclusion of older people within the UN system and engage in a dialogue with civil society actors. In our joint letter we highlighted some critical gaps in the UN system, which have been made more visible during the COVID-19 crisis.

## ■ Towards better protection of the rights of older persons with disabilities

In 2020 we collaborated with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Disability Forum in a [policy webinar](#) which brought together the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, representatives of EU institutions, Member States and important civil society and human rights actors in the region. This joint meeting delivered some important [recommendations](#) for future EU action on ageing and disability.

We furthermore [responded](#) to an online consultation about the European Commission's Roadmap proposed to develop and fine tune the upcoming [European Disability Rights Strategy](#). While hailing the reference to the correlation between age and disability, we regret that this intersection is not further reflected in the priorities and activities foreseen in the Roadmap. We called for a stronger cross-cutting focus on older people with disabilities and more data on older people with disabilities. Older people's organisations and older persons with disabilities themselves must have a key role in improving the application of disability rights across the life course.

We reiterated these recommendations in a series of meetings organised along the year by the European Commission, to which AGE was invited, and in a [roundtable](#) organized by the United Nations in December.

## ... and of the rights of older victims

In 2020 we joined forces with Victim Support Europe and other civil society organisations for the campaign [#OneVoiceOneCause for victims' rights across Europe](#) to mark the European Day for Victims of Crime. We called on the EU and member states not to forget any victims and to take strong action to improve recognition, support measures and address underreporting.

After years of advocating for the need for the EU to address the realities and needs of older victims, later into 2020 the first ever [EU Strategy on Victims' Rights 2020-2025](#) identified explicitly older people as one of the groups in need of specific measures to improve reporting levels and access to victim support and protection mechanisms. This positive step should help to overcome the challenges that older victims face, including the tendency for older people to be taken less seriously by police and law enforcement agencies.

We became members of the [EU Victims' Rights Platform](#), whose mission is to ensure a meaningful implementation of the Strategy. This will be a key instrument to raise further awareness of the realities and obstacles faced by older victims and the intersections between ageism and other forms of discrimination.

## ■ Applying equality & human rights in old age in practice

Our joint conference with the German presidency paved the way to the Council Conclusions "Human rights, participation and

well-being of older persons in the era of digitalisation” which mention that human rights must be at the heart of policy work on ageing at EU, national and international levels. Yet, there is little understanding of what a rights-based approach to ageing means. To fill this gap, AGE published a [short paper](#), based on the work of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

Moreover, we participated in the [EU Legal Seminar on Non-Discrimination](#) and an online event organised by DG Justice on age equality, where we stressed the need for adopting the draft horizontal equal treatment directive that would cover age discrimination in access to goods and services. We also called for more education, awareness, and policy focus on ageism.

In an internal workshop, AGE members also reflected on how to respond to ageism after the pandemic. Building on most recent examples of stigma and discrimination based on age during COVID-19, AGE members identified ideas of initiatives and alternative discourses that could help debunk ageist narratives and attitudes. The workshop compiled several actions taking place at national level that could be replicated in other countries and clarified what role AGE could play in the coming years to support members’ efforts.

## ■ **Preparation ahead of the release of the Green Paper on Ageing**

Applying equal rights in practice and across the life course is the motto of our work around the Green Paper on Ageing. This

European Commission’s initiative will launch a EU-wide consultation to identify the challenges raised by EU’s ageing population and the actions needed to address them.

The publication of the Paper was postponed to early 2021. Yet, in 2020 we actively prepared this release and advocated for an ambitious Green Paper, including through letters to- and meetings with the European Commission, in the context of the pandemic. We also started to build the capacities of AGE members to participate in the upcoming consultation.

In parallel, we re-launched contacts with key stakeholders to join forces and discuss potential synergies on the wide number of issues that should be covered by the Green Paper which. Last but not least, we took the opportunity of the consultation opened on the roadmap to [highlight our expectations](#) organised around three main pillars:

1. Change the narrative and reinforce the human rights-based approach;
2. Tackle socio-economic inequalities and discrimination across life;
3. Propose a comprehensive strategy to overcome the silos.

The Green Paper will obviously be one of our top priorities in 2021.

*Read also our Special Briefings of [July](#) and [September](#).*



## Solidarity between generations

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The importance of intergenerational bonds may have never been more apparent than in this time of COVID-19 pandemic. While millions of people remain confined in their homes in solidarity with the healthcare workers and to protect those who are most at risks of severe COVID-19 health consequences, [multiple initiatives](#) were being taken by people of all generations across Europe, expressing empathy, solidarity and unity as the best response to the pandemic. The European Day of Solidarity between Generations on 29<sup>th</sup> April was the occasion to celebrate them in our various media channels.

### ■ Tackling common challenges

On 29<sup>th</sup> April, we also stressed the need to tackle climate at the same time as the risks of future pandemics, and so ensure that current and future generations will have a decent future to look forward to. In a [joint statement](#) with the European Youth Forum we called on all generations to get involved in reinventing

completely a post-pandemic world putting humankind and our planet at the heart of our societies.

While many young and old got united in the fight against the virus, far too often generations have been pitted against one another. Young people have been depicted as reckless, careless, or simply unbothered by the pandemic, and older people as vulnerable, useless and in need of protection. Again with the European Youth Forum, we published a [joint op-ed](#) to denounce this oversimplification as being not only unfair, but also damaging.

In November, [we highlighted](#) the responsibility of our decision makers in supporting intergenerational dialogue at an event held by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We also reminded of existing inequalities within and across generations: both young and older women

and young and older people with low education level are more likely to be excluded.

### ■ **Gender equality across generations**

Generation equality was the motto of the 2020 International Women's Day. AGE took the opportunity to [raise the voices of older women](#) who have contributed to building gender equality, while underlining the remaining challenges for today's and tomorrow's older women. AGE also assessed the Gender Equality Strategy released by the European Union. While welcoming the initiative, we regretted, however, that older women's issues were not sufficiently addressed in the strategy.

### ■ **Advocacy work within the European Parliament**

Cooperating with allies within the European Parliament is critical to support our action for greater solidarity between generations in Europe. Despite our active campaigning in 2019, the Intergroup on Solidarity between Generations was not re-established because of differences of views between the main political parties. However, AGE [prepared the ground](#) for establishing an interest group on solidarity between generations with a number of committed MEPs. Due to the pandemic, the official launch, planned for the beginning of the year, was delayed until September, during a debate with the Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica and the German Council Presidency. The group of MEPs put forward three important initiatives:

- a [written question](#) was signed by 11 MEPs to call for not delaying the discussion on demographic change because of the pandemic;
- an [open letter](#) to the Commission and Council Presidents called for solidarity between generations to be upheld in the response to COVID-19 and attracted signatures by 36 MEPs;
- a [statement](#) supporting the joint call of AGE, the European Public Service Union and the European Disability Forum on the management of the pandemic in the context of long-term care reached 88 signatures and [triggered a debate in Plenary](#) on the issue. Work in 2021 will concentrate on some key resolutions by the European Parliament addressing demographic change.



## AGE Barometer 2020 - Assessing older people's situation across the EU

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In 2020 we published the second edition of the [AGE Barometer](#) which assesses on a yearly basis the socio-economic situation of older people across the EU and how this situation underpins the respect for their human rights. This second edition contains key information to better understand how COVID-19 has worsened the dire situations that many older people were already experiencing before the pandemic in particular with regard to social inclusion, health, or long-term care. It also includes two sections on the specific challenges faced by older Roma and older LGBTI people. Based on a crosscutting analysis of the AGE Barometer, we have drawn several recommendations in three areas:

1. Fill the missing data gap;
2. Close the digital divide;
3. Make health and long-term care systems truly resilient.



## Participation and autonomy

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### ■ Financial inclusion

How are older persons excluded from accessing or using financial services ranging from simple payments to current accounts, mortgages, pension products and different kinds of insurances? To assess older people's financial exclusion within the EU, we joined forces with Finance Watch, a European network of NGOs, academics, and consumer organisations - of which we are associate member - to [disseminate a survey](#), to which many AGE members responded. The results will be analysed and feed recommendations for the EU and member states on how to ensure people of all ages can use these essential services.

### ■ Digital literacy

The European Commission planned to update its Digital Education Action Plan, setting out recommendations for funding and development of guidance in education policies. AGE responded to the open public consultation [with a policy paper](#) highlighting that older persons are by and large overlooked in the plans for updating the Action Plan. In our response, we also underlined the importance of non-formal and informal learning in later life, and the need to look beyond work-related skills. Especially in the context of the pandemic and the reinforced digitalization of societies, inclusive digital education is more important than ever.

## ■ Accessible environments

### **Successful cooperation with local authorities to promote age-friendly environments**

Our work around age-friendly environments and our capacity to establish connection and facilitate cooperation among different stakeholders continued to be recognised in 2020. Beyond the regular work with the European Covenant on Demographic Change and the Global Network on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities of the World Health Organization (WHO), we participated to different events to share our knowledge, such as the meeting held by the [T.A.A.F.E](#) Interreg Project (Towards an Age-Friendly Alpine Space) or the [conference](#) held by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

In 2020 we also pursued our successful partnership started with ESPON in 2019 around the ACPA project (Adapting Cities to Population Ageing) with a joint online event organised during the European Week of Regions and Cities on "[Older people as local agents of change](#)". The participating speakers demonstrated how much older persons are not only service beneficiaries but also critical agents of change. Then, we were associated to the organisation of the Final Conference of the ACPA project: our Vice President Heidrun Mollenkopf was among the speakers of the [launching event](#) on 30 November 2020 notably to reflect on the impact of the increasing digitalisation of our societies on older people.

Last but not least, we were invited to share our views on ageing in the ESPON magazine, "TerritoriALL" ([Issue 2, November 2020](#)).

### **Access City Award**

Once again AGE actively supported the [EU Access City Award](#). This initiative led by the European Commission highlights the challenges faced by persons with reduced mobility in cities and promote good and concrete practices across EU countries. AGE's former President, Liz Mestheneos, was involved in the EU jury 2021 edition which awarded the Swedish city of Jönköping .

### **Ensuring access to food shopping in pandemic' s time**

Together with the European Disability Forum, AGE sent [a letter to EuroCommerce](#) (the European Federation of retail, wholesale, and other trading companies) to highlight the issues older people and persons with disabilities may face in accessing food shop during the confinement. This letter resulted into a constructive dialogue with EuroCommerce and the plan to work on a Charter and other concrete initiatives to improve access to retail shops and online shopping for all. A working group should be established in 2021, which will include AGE members to ensure the front hand experience of older persons is taken on board.

### **Housing**

One of the 8 domains identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) in relation to age-friendly environments is housing. AGE priority is to ensure that we have in old age the

choice to live where they feel the most comfortable and in the community they belong to. To be able to have this choice,



housing options need to evolve with our society, and not be limited to either your family home or a nursing home.

Therefore, to support ageing at home, AGE collaborated in the [Homes4Life](#) project whose goal is to develop a certification scheme for age-friendly housing. It provides a common understanding for architects, builders, policy makers, carers, tenants, innovators of what a home should be like when your needs evolve in time. All documents are available [here](#).





## Employment

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2020's headlines were dominated by the heavy toll that the pandemic is taking on employment in general and service sector employees in particular. We addressed the challenges of older workers in our contributions on COVID19 and the recovery, to the European Semester and to the consultation on reinforcing social Europe (see chapter on equal rights).

At the same time, the Directive on equal treatment in employment and occupation ('Employment Directive') celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On that occasion AGE was called upon by the Commission to [provide an assessment](#) of its implementation. We underlined that the legal framework still does not fully implement age equality, namely because of:

1. special exceptions authorising age discrimination in the directive;

2. the lack of equal treatment legislation in the access to goods and services;
3. the problems of implementing age-inclusive workplaces and recruitment policies.

The legal framework has only limited impact, as recruitment practices move to social media and ageism is still widespread in recruiters' and managers' attitudes. AGE called for policies that actively promote age diversity and support life-long learning, including intergenerational learning, as a way to improve age equality in the labour market. Furthermore, the absence of adequate formal long-term care services and of support to informal carers has a particular impact on older women's chances in the labour market.



## Loneliness & social inclusion

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The pandemic has profoundly affected those who were already in vulnerable situations before and it will increase poverty and social exclusion dramatically. AGE voiced the concerns that older people are no exception to this. On the international day for the elimination of poverty and social exclusion, AGE [warned](#) that many older persons with minimum or low pensions find themselves as new beneficiaries of food banks. Moreover, the reduction of jobs in the service sector hits older persons who rely on smaller jobs to complement inadequate pension income and many older workers who have lost their jobs might not find employment again before pension age.

AGE also [raised the concerns](#) of older women in a workshop on women and poverty organised by the Equinet network of equality bodies. Here, AGE highlighted the impact of the reduction of health and long-term care services that hit older

women disproportionately, on top of a situation where older women are already more exposed to higher risks of poverty and social exclusion.

In our contribution to the International Poverty Day and during a roundtable with Equinet, AGE warned about the increased risk of loneliness and social isolation of older people, as human interactions are moving online, making social face-to-face interactions more limited. Building on our experiences, [we contributed](#) to the official visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights to the European Union in December. AGE also [worked with ROSEnet](#), the research project COST Action on Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion in Later Life and a group composed by AGE members, feeding experience from the complex reality of older people and real-life stories to guide the research project.



## Health: learning from the COVID pandemic

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Health has been at the centre of our work with the COVID-19 pandemic. As shown all across this annual report, we have dealt with the impact of the pandemic from different angles. In the health area, it has been the opportunity to reinforce existing cooperation and to remind how much a human-rights and a life-course perspective approach are essential to improve health in older age.

### ■ **Strengthening the cooperation with the WHO**

In 2020 our cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) mainly related to the [Decade of Healthy Ageing](#) which was endorsed in August and became a United Nations Decade in December. Our participation to key events organised by the WHO offered us the opportunity to reiterate our commitment to the Decade and our strong belief in cooperation across borders

to improve healthy ageing: at a [virtual briefing](#) with Dr. Hans Klug, Regional Director for Europe, on 26 June, and, on 4 November during the [Interactive Civil Society Dialogue](#) with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO. During the latter, Dr Tedros praised the added value of such a dialogue and called for having it organised on a regular basis with WHO services. From 2021, AGE will engage with the International Federation on Ageing to contribute to this work. We also supported the WHO's messages on the Decade on Healthy Ageing through the [ATHLOS](#) project. This research, conducted over 411,000 individuals across Europe and across generations, showed that longer lives are enjoyed differently across countries and showcased the "old age paradox": older people age in worst health conditions in Italy and Spain, even though in



these two countries people live the longest. Conversely, Denmark, being one of the countries where people live shorter lives, is the best ranked in terms of healthy ageing (which can be summarised by this quote from Prof. Sanderson: "*74 years old Danes are health equivalent to 68 years old Italians*"). AGE brought these messages to the European Parliament, during a final event on 28 January 2020, alongside with ATHLOS' finding on the impact of health inequalities on ageing. These findings were also directly shared with WHO and partially adopted by the United Nations.

#### ■ **Raising the profile of our messages in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Most probably because of the dire impact of the pandemic on older people, AGE was invited to many different events and meetings\* related to the COVID-19 notably during the first wave. It was the opportunity to share our messages: we reminded how important a human rights-based approach is and insisted that investing in age-friendly environments and resilient health- and care services is critical to learn from this crisis. This contributed to make the work done by AGE much more visible. As an example, following one of the webinar organised within the framework of the EU Health Policy Platform, we were contacted by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to review the [guidelines](#) on support for socially and medically vulnerable populations in COVID-19 context.

*\* To read more on some of those events we were invited to:*

- [Grow old, grow healthy in time of COVID-19 - AGE shares old age perspective in EU webinars](#)
- [Recent online events gave higher visibility to AGE's messages on Healthy Ageing](#)
- [Commission unveils future EU plans to address demographic ageing at Croatian Presidency high-level event](#)

#### ■ **AGE' s work on active and healthy ageing beyond COVID-19**

[Pharaon](#), kicked-off in January 2020, aims at making smart and active living for Europe's ageing population a reality by integrating digital solutions. AGE led and coordinated all communications and interactions with external bodies. We were also involved in setting up the user requirement framework for the [project's pilots](#) and supported the establishment of the [ethics framework](#). Smart sofas, shoes and clothing have been chosen by the [Maturolife](#) project to contribute to stay independent when we grow older. AGE and EUROCARERS put together a [manual with practical tips on co-creation](#) with older persons and informal carers based on the experiences from co-creation workshops conducted in the MATUROLIFE project. Towards the end of 2020 AGE also [invited its members](#) to participate in the online testing of smart footwear, furniture and clothing, which will be continued in the beginning of 2021.



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 2020, AGE worked on the translation of scientific findings into recommendations for older people on tackling protein malnutrition which will be published in 2021.



The [i-Prognosis](#) project, aimed to support the early detection of Parkinson's disease, concluded at the beginning of 2020. AGE finalized the user evaluation of the i-Prognosis application and games which provided valuable insights to improve the i-Prognosis system.

e-Health and Artificial intelligence: older people's perspective

As Ursula von der Leyen promised in July 2019 when she was elected President, the European Commission released a [White Paper on Artificial Intelligence](#) as the first milestone of a European approach on this key issue. The document builds on the work done by the [High Level Group on Artificial Intelligence](#) and opens up a consultation to which [AGE contributed](#) by highlighting three challenges: the digital exclusion, the increased use of new technologies in the care sector and ageism as a clear risk factor.



AGE sustained the debate on artificial intelligence and ageing within the [NESTORE](#), releasing a virtual coach to motivate the user to an active and healthy social, physical, cognitive, and nutritional routine. Together with

the project's Advisory Board, AGE addressed its concerns and preferences across the project and summarised its lessons learnt in policy recommendations and in a dedicated chapter on the final book (Springer editor). Highlights of the project were gathered also by the [Euronews channel](#), in a video dedicated to the Dutch users' experience and another one on the underlying design for technology.

The [Digital Health Europe](#) project is addressing the increased use of new technologies in the care sector. How do we ensure that information and data collected by technology is safe? What should be implemented to encourage the use of technology in care by all and not only the usual suspects? What strategies should governments put in place to encourage citizens to share their data for disease prevention? AGE involvement made sure that the perspective of older people was included in the recommendations and outputs of this project, from reminding partners about the importance of health literacy and training, affordability and accessibility of technology, the importance of addressing the digital divide, but also about ageism when it comes to the co-creation of these technologies.



We also continued our engagement with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA), participating to its Horizon2020 Coordination and Support Action WE4AHA. As part of this project, AGE contributed to the blueprint personas (profiles aimed at identifying the health and care needs of the population) and to

[guides](#) that serve as a "starter kit", providing advice on tackling the challenges of digital health innovation implementation.

#### ■ **Tackling growing online disinformation**

Along with the uncertainties raised by the pandemic, we have seen an increase in the spread of fake news online. As part of our work on digital inclusion, AGE is participating in the [DIGITOL](#) project to combat the effect and the spread of disinformation by improving older people's digital literacy and promoting EU common values among older citizens. In 2020 AGE compiled [country context analysis reports](#) about the digital integration of older adults and tools available in the four pilot countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy). Key results are also available in an infographic.

The logo for the DIGITOL project, featuring the word "digitol" in a lowercase, bold, pink sans-serif font.



## Long-term care in times of COVID-19 and beyond

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### ■ Addressing urgencies

In 2020, we witnessed tragic violations of the dignity of older people in care of need and support, particularly those living in care homes. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed more clearly than ever before the many shortcomings of Europe's care and support systems. Deaths, lack of access to hospital care, staff shortages, lack of protective equipment and testing, abandonment and neglect, were some of the tragic developments of the pandemic.

From the beginning of the pandemic, AGE warned about the impacts it had on the dignity of older people in need of care. We sent [a letter](#) to relevant EU Commissioners to ask the EU and

the member states to put the focus on those undignified situations and take urgent action to address them. When the impacts of the first wave of the pandemic were better documented and visible, we sent [a call](#) to EU Commissioners asking for more EU action in long-term care to prevent further hardship and prepare the future.

### ■ Pushing for an inquiry: learn from what happened

The breaches of human dignity in long-term care and support cannot go unaddressed. To make sure that we learn the lessons and those breaches will not happen again in the future, we joined forces with the European Public Service Unions (EPSU) and the European Disability Forum (EDF). We sent [a joint letter](#)

to the European Parliament asking for an inquiry into residential care, pointing to the tragic situations that older people in need of care, people with disabilities and care workers experienced. Over the summer 88 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) [supported our call](#), and [a debate](#) was organised as a result in the European Parliament on 9 October.

The strong support to the initiative, materialised in those follow-up actions, set the basis for more joint work with our partners and the European Parliament, including hopefully an inquiry. This work will contribute to addressing both immediate needs in long-term care and future action in this area at EU level, based on awareness and concrete knowledge of the shortcomings.

#### ■ **Planning for the future: the long-term care we wish**

In 2020, we consulted our members via our Task Force on Dignified Ageing to understand their concerns around the COVID-19 crisis in access to care. A meeting of the Task Force allowed us to address retrospectively the impacts of the first wave of the pandemic and identify the needs to avoid similar impacts in the following months.

Most importantly, we encouraged the Task Force and the wider AGE membership to start thinking about the future of long-term care and support for older people. What is the care we wish for ourselves and others in the future? What should be the horizon of public policies in this area?

We put forward some answers to this question in [our submission](#) to the consultation of the European Commission on the Action

Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, which includes a right to long-term care. We called for ambitious EU action, including via a legislative tool, to set common indicators, targets, quality principles, social protection measures and support to formal and professional carers. In 2021 AGE will fight for the highest level of ambition in EU's action in this area.

In 2020 we also put in place and run the European Expert Group on a new long-term care model, a group of six leading European experts chaired by Sarah Harper, professor at Oxford University. Run in partnership with the Government of Biscay (Basque Country, Spain), this group will deliver, by the beginning of 2022, a report containing the key elements for a quality, comprehensive long-term care, and support system in the future.

Both this report and AGE members' own reflections on the future of care will continue evolving in 2021. So that policymakers and service providers have a new level of ambition to pursue in organising and delivering care for older people. Because care services are not the goal: they are the means to achieve a life in dignity and equality.

# 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 (online) 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 meet once a year to take stock of AGE action and decide on the work priorities.
- 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 (virtually in 2020).
- 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

- Ebbe Johansen, President (DK)
- Heidrun Mollenkopf, Vice President (DE)
- Regine Matthijsen, Vice-President (NL)
- Jose-Luis Tejedor, Vice President (ES)
- Christina Rogestam, Vice President (SW)
- Elena Weber, Secretary (EAN)
- Treasurer: Jean-Michel Hôte (FR)

## ■ Secretariat

- Anne-Sophie Parent - Secretary-General (from January to June 2020)
- Maciej Kucharczyk -Secretary-General (as of July 2020): [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)
- Estelle Huchet – Memberships and Campaigns Officer: [estelle.huchet@age-platform.eu](mailto:estelle.huchet@age-platform.eu)
- Julia Wadoux - Policy Coordinator for Health, New Technologies & Accessibility: [julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu](mailto:julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu)
- Nena Georgantzi – Policy Coordinator on Human Rights & Non-Discrimination: [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 on long-term care & elder abuse: [borja.arrue@age-platform.eu](mailto:borja.arrue@age-platform.eu)
- Ilenia Gheno - Research Project Manager: [ilenia.gheno@age-platform.eu](mailto:ilenia.gheno@age-platform.eu)
- Nhu Tram – Research Project Officer: [nhu.tram@age-platform.eu](mailto:nhu.tram@age-platform.eu)
- Vera Hoermann – Research Project Officer: [vera.hoermann@age-platform.eu](mailto:vera.hoermann@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:
- Denmark: Johansen Ebbe
- Estonia: Ergma Andres
- Finland: Sundqvist Björn
- France: Connan Claude / Bazot Bernard
- Germany: Mollekopf Heidrun / Barbara Kahler
- Greece: Ranga Myrto
- Hungary:
- Ireland: McKinney Ciaran
- Italy: Zuluaga Camilo / Giorgio Grenzi
- Lithuania:
- Malta: De Giovanni Anthony
- Netherlands: Christine Nanlohy
- Norway : Jan Davidsen
- Poland: Kominek Ewa / Potocka Halina
- Portugal: Anabela Paixão
- Romania: Giorgica Badarau
- Slovenia: Puhar Jožica
- Slovakia:
- Spain: Angel Yaguë Criado / Tejedor José Luis
- Sweden: Martin Engman
- UK: Luxotn David / EMily McCarron

### *European Federations:*

- Alein Koskas (FIAPA)
- Ghislaine van Halewyn (ESU)
- Tallberg Christina (NOPO)
- Jarré Dirk (EURAG)

### *European Organisations:*

- Elena Weber (EAN)
- 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:
- Denmark: Sorensen Kirstein John
- Estonia:
- Finland: Hamro-Drotz Philip
- France: Claude Waret / Hôte Jean-Michel
- Germany: Voelcker Ina
- Greece: Pavlidis George
- Hungary:
- Ireland: Carey Liam
- Italy: Volponi Fabio / Zaffarano Giuseppe
- Malta: Naudi Gaetan
- Norway : Arne Halaas

- Netherlands: Matthijsen Regine
- Poland: Iwanicka Elzbieta / Nowakowska Hanna
- Portugal:
- Romania: Chioaru Gheorghe
- Slovenia: Krivec Katja
- Spain: Maria Rosa Lunas Masnou / Landaluce Jose-Ramon
- Sweden: Christina Rogestam
- UK: Carney Gemma / Chris Walsh

### *European Federations:*

- Camille Gautard (FIAPA)
- Leif Hallberg (ESU)
- (NOPO)
- Jaap van der Spek (EURAG)

### *European Organisations:*

- Pascal Champvert (EAN)
- Andrea Ferenczi (OWN EUROPE)



# AGE Members in 2020

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## Austria:

Pensionisten Verband

## Belgium:

CD&V-senioren

Entr'Agés asbl

Enéo (ex UCP)

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)

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:

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

Uscire Insieme Onlus

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+

Norway: •

The Norwegian Pensioners' Association, Pensjonistforbundet

Poland:	Union Democratica de Pensionistas (UDP)
Fundacja na Rzecz Kobiet JA KOBIETA (Foundation for Women's Issues)	Sweden:
Seniors BONUM VITAE	SPF Seniorerna
Portugal:	Switzerland :
APRE - Associação de Aposentados Pensionistas e Reformados	Conseil Suisse des Aînés
CASO50+ - Centro de Atendimento e Serviços 050+	Turkey:
Romania:	Türkiye Emekliler Derneği (Turkey Retired Persons Organisation) – TIED (observer member)
National Federation Omenia/Federatia Nationala Omenia	65+ Elder Rights Association
Slovakia:	United Kingdom:
Forum Pre Pomoc Starsim (Forum for Help to Age, National Network)	British Society of Gerontology
Slovenia:	Civil Service Pensioners Alliance
Mestna zveza upokojencev Ljubljana (MZU)	Homeshare International
ZDUS – Zveza drustev upokojencev Slovenije	International Longevity Centre Uk (ILC-UK) (observer member)
Spain:	The National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (observer member)
Asociación de Profesores Universitarios Jubilados (ASPUR)	Wise Age
Catalonian Federation of Elder Associations (FATEC)	European Federations:
Confederación Española De Organizaciones De Mayores (CEOMA)	EURAG - Europäisches Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen
Federacion d'Organitzacions Catalanes de Gent Gran, Dones i Família (FOCAGG)	European Senior Citizens Union – ESU
Federacion Territorial de Asociaciones provinciales de pensionistas y jubilados de alava, Guipuzcoa y Vizcaya (FEDERPEN)	European Senior Organisation – ESO
Spanish Red Cross	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 2020 AGE took part in:



## 17 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
- Victims' Rights Platform

### European Agencies

- Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Fundamental Rights Agency
- WG of Patients and Consumers Working Parties of the European Medicines Agency

*AB= Advisory board*

*WG= Working group*

- WG on Technical Specification on Interoperability of the European Railway Agency

### **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 Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group with Civil Society
- European Parliament interest group on Solidarity between Generations



### **10 Civil society groups**

- ANEC: Accessibility 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 and TF on Social Standards
- European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN): EU Inclusion Strategies Group (member of the Steering 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
- Finance Watch – Associate member and Working Group on Inclusive Finance



## 7 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 group

- International Conference of NGOs (iNGOs) of the Council of Europe

# Communication tools

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

+330 web-articles posted on AGE website

245,227 page views - 100,252 visitors

**Newsletter CoverAGE:**

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

11 editions + 2576 subscribers

25 **Newsflashes** to AGE members

16 **Press releases**

## Social Media:



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

6.707 followers - +430 tweets



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

2.243 followers - 96 posts

## Blogs

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

18000 visitors

European Parliament news:

<https://towardsanagefriendlyep.com>

about 2000 views, 1000 visitors

# Financial Information

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AGE's policy activities in 2020 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 2020, AGE received additional incomes such as grants from the Region of Biscay's to support our work on long term care and from the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and [BAGSO](#), the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations, for the organisation of our joint EU Presidency conference on 28-29 September 2020: *"Strengthening Older People's Rights in Times of Digitalisation – Lessons learned from COVID-19"*.

We also thank our member organisations the Groupement Européen des Retraités des Caisses d'Epargne, Banques et Institutions Similaires (GERCE) and the Fédération Nationale des

Associations de Retraités ([FNAR](#)) for their general contribution in support to our work.

AGE continued its work on European Research Projects throughout 2020, besides being involved in new proposals. AGE was partner in 14 projects dealing with new technologies, health and care, and age-friendly environments. Those projects, mainly financed by the European Horizon 2020 Programme are: Athlos, DigitalHealthEurope, Digitol, EuroAgeism, Homes4Life, InAdvance, I-Prognosis, Maturolife, Nestore, Pharaon, Promiss, Shapes, 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>

## 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>



### AGE Platform Europe

111 avenue de Tervuren, 168/2 • B - 1150 Bruxelles

Tel.: +32.2.280.14.70 • Fax: +32.2.280.15.22

E-mail: [info@age-platform.eu](mailto:info@age-platform.eu) • [www.age-platform.eu](http://www.age-platform.eu)

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

 [www.facebook.com/AGE-Platform-Europe-531987210246422](https://www.facebook.com/AGE-Platform-Europe-531987210246422)



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